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U.S. DELEGATION TO REACH PAKISTAN TODAY TO RESUME TALKS WITH IRAN

US President Donald Trump renewed his threats to destroy Iran's vital infrastructure if it did not agree to a deal with the US to end the war

'NO MORE MR. NICE GUY', TRUMP WARNS IRAN

Trump said his negotiators would arrive in Islamabad on Monday evening. Ahead of the expected talks, Trump stepped up his threats saying the US will "knock out every single power plant and bridge in Iran" if it does not agree to the deal he offers. "NO MORE MR. NICE GUY!" he wrote on Truth Social. Vice President J D Vance is expected to lead the US delegation

DAY AFTER SHIPS FIRED AT, STRAIT STAYS SHUT

- The Strait of Hormuz remained closed on Sunday. Trump slammed Iran for violating the ceasefire by firing upon ships transiting the strait
- Meanwhile, Iran doubled down on its pledge to curb ships transiting through the strategic waterway. "It is impossible for others to pass, while we cannot," Iranian speaker Mohammed Ghalibaf said | **P11**

Wednesday

WHEN THE CURRENT CEASEFIRE BETWEEN IRAN AND THE U.S. EXPIRES

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Oppn parties see poll code violation in PM's address

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi hit out at the Opposition for voting against the women's quota bill in the Lok Sabha, the Left parties wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar alleging Modi's address to the nation violated the poll code. A Congress leader in Kerala also wrote to the EC against the alleged violation, while West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said she would soon file a complaint against Modi's "illegal campaign".

In separate letters to the poll panel, CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby and CPI Rajya Sabha MP P Sandosh Kumar alleged misuse of public broadcaster Doordarshan to influence public opinion in the mids of state elections.

Baby said the prime minister's televised address constitutes a flagrant breach of the MCC provision laid down in the section under the heading Party in Power. "It was blatantly political, targeting the opposition parties... and seeking to influence public opinion, including the voters of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, in favour of the ruling party," he said, adding appropriate proceedings should be initiated.

CPI's Sandosh Kumar said that the speech contained attempts at influencing public opinion on a matter under active political contestation.

TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee said her party plans to file a formal complaint with the Election Commission.

In his complaint to the Election Commission of India, former Congress MLA Anil Akkara termed the PM's address "a grave breach of election protocols" and sought appropriate action.

Concrete structures reduced to rubble at the Vanaja fireworks unit in Kattanarpatti after a massive explosion; (right) fire and rescue services personnel carrying an injured man to safety; (inset) a woman breaks down outside the Virudhunagar MCH | K K SUNDAR

23 killed, 11 injured in explosion at Tamil Nadu firecracker unit

Police and media personnel, including *TNIE* photographer, hurt in second blast during rescue op

HARINI M @ Virudhunagar

AT least 23 workers were charred to death and 11 others sustained injuries in a massive explosion at Vanaja fireworks unit at Kattanarpatti village near Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu on Sunday.

Five policemen, some media personnel, including *TNIE* senior photojournalist K K Sundar, and a few fire and rescue services personnel suffered injuries in a second blast at the private firecracker unit during rescue operation around 7 pm.

Based on preliminary inquiry, police said the incident happened around 3 pm when around 50 employees were working at the licensed unit. The blast is believed to have originated in the front veranda area, where workers were allegedly handling raw materials. The impact of the blast was so severe that at least four rooms were reduced to rubble, and several adjacent structures were completely levelled. Sources said fire and rescue services personnel battled the flames for several hours.

So far, police have identified the deceased as K Velsamy (56), S Porkodi (63) both from Thiruthangal village, K Pandiammal (55), M Bakyalakshmi (40), K Kaliammal (45), M Indhurani (46), R Mariammal (57), K Maruthan (50), his wife Nagammal (48), K Pandiammal (54), A Janaki (55) and I Nachiammal (55), all from Servaikaranpatti. The charred bodies of the deceased were shifted to Government Virudhunagar Medical College Hospital and the injured are also getting treatment at the same hospital.

Police identified the injured as Saratha, Panjavarnam, Petchiammal, Sangli Thangam, Veerabathran, Arunkumar, a 12-year-old V Sathish (son of one of the workers who was playing at the spot). Among the injured, Petchiammal and Panjavarnam sustained more than 80% burns and are said to be critical. The rescue operations resumed post a brief halt after the second blast. Minister KKSSR Ramachandran said Chief Minister M K Stalin will announce compensation after getting approval from the ECI.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Stalin expressed condolences. **P9**

A DEAFENING BLAST AND CALL OF DUTY

Virudhunagar: In a firsthand account, TNIE's photojournalist K K Sundar recounts a harrowing experience during the blast at Kattanapatti. While approaching the site on Sunday, Sundar was nearly caught in a massive secondary blast. The explosion was so powerful that it caused temporary disorientation and a head injury from flying debris. Despite the physical trauma and panic, Sundar overcame personal fear to answer his call of duty

Dinesh Trivedi to be India's next envoy to Dhaka

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

IN a calibrated move, the government is set to appoint former Union minister and former Trinamool Congress leader Dinesh Trivedi as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh, opting for a political heavyweight over a career diplomat at a moment of cautious reset in Dhaka-New Delhi ties.

Though Bangladesh had been quietly informed that the next envoy would be a political appointee, Trivedi's selection stands out for both timing and signalling value.

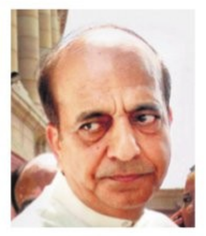
He replaces Pranay Verma, who moves to Brussels as India's ambassador to the European Union. Trivedi becomes one of the few overtly political nominees to a sensitive neighbourhood posting in recent years.

The appointment comes as India looks to reset its Bangladesh policy amid an evolving political landscape under the Tarique Rahman dispensation.

Against this backdrop, sending a 75-year-old political veteran suggests a deliberate pivot: from protocol-heavy diplomacy to a more politically managed engagement, where messaging, access and negotiation bandwidth may outweigh traditional bureaucratic continuity. The move also carries domestic political messaging as Trivedi is a former Trinamool Congress leader.

Trivedi's own arc—from a Trinamool Congress minister in the UPA government under Manmohan Singh to a BJP entrant in 2021—adds a layer of political adaptability that may be seen as useful in a complex bilateral setting. His parliamentary experience across both Houses, and familiarity with West Bengal's political landscape, could also prove relevant in managing cross-border sensitivities.

The backdrop to this decision is a period of strain following the upheaval associated with Muhammad Yunus's interim phase, during which bilateral ties frayed alongside concerns over the safety of minorities. The precedent is not entirely isolated in recent times. The earlier deployment of former Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag to Seychelles hinted at a broader willingness to assign high-profile figures to strategic missions.



Ex-Trinamool leader

Trivedi, 75, served as the Railway minister and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare during the UPA rule. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha from West Bengal and was a Lok Sabha MP from Barrackpore. He quit the Trinamool Congress in 2021 and joined the BJP

9,000 Indians facing deportation from Canada as new law kicks in

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ABOUT 9,000 Indians, most of them students from Punjab, who had sought asylum in Canada, are facing deportation under the country's new immigration law. Bill C-12, enacted on March 26, tightens rules for asylum seekers in Canada.

Many students from Punjab, who had adopted the asylum route to extend their stay in Canada after completing their studies there, due to stringent visa rules and limited pathways to permanent residency, would be affected.

A spokesperson for the Canadian Immigration Minister said the government is now implementing the new law and is in the process of sending procedural fairness letters to affected individuals.

According to reports, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has told some of them to leave the country immediately.

Reports said the IRCC has issued procedural fairness notices to 30,000 asylum seekers, including 9,000 from India, informing them that their asylum claims may no longer qualify and advising them to leave Canada voluntarily or face enforcement action.

The IRCC has clarified that those receiving the notice have 21 days to submit additional information.

Failure to respond to the notice could lead to deportation proceedings, it said.

These notices have triggered panic. Affected individuals have been advised to consult registered immigration consultants or lawyers and gather all supporting documents.

Bill C-12 retroactively bars individuals who entered Canada more than one year prior to filing an asylum claim from referring their cases to the Immigration and Refugee Board. This rule applies to entries dating back to June 24, 2020.

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Tighter curbs on asylum seekers

Under Bill C-12, which came into force on March 26, individuals applying for asylum more than one year after arriving in Canada will be deemed ineligible for a full hearing before the Immigration and Refugee Board

RETURN TO HEYDAYS

Tourists pose for a photo in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. A year after the terrorist attack, visitors are slowly returning to the tourist spot | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

Accident on NH-50 kills 4, injures 25

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hosapete

A serial accident claimed four lives and left at least 25 people injured near Danapur village in Hosapete taluk on Sunday. The accident occurred on a stretch of the National Highway-50 where ongoing road repair and bridge construction work had restricted traffic movement to a single lane.

A lorry transporting sacks of garlic from Delhi to Bengaluru lost control and rammed into multiple vehicles. It first hit a car before crashing into a government bus and then three motorcycles. It then hit a van and a container lorry before overturning by the roadside, according to the police.

The deceased have been identified as Sujatha (40) and her father Nagappa (80), residents of Kittur village in Hagaribommanahalli taluk, and Durgappa (55) from Talebasapura tanda, who was riding one of the motorcycles. Authorities later confirmed that the death toll had risen to four.

The injured include passengers of the government bus, which was heading from Hosapete to Chitradurga. The lorry rear-ended the bus, leaving around 25 passengers injured. All of them were immediately shifted to the Hosapete Government Hospital. Of the injured, six were referred to the Koppal District Hospital for advanced care, while the remaining are being treated at the Hosapete district hospital.

Police said the ongoing highway repair work, which had reduced traffic movement to one side, could be the major reason for the accident.

PUB BRAWL

MAN PUSHED FROM 2ND FLOOR DIES

A 30-year-old man died on the spot after he was allegedly pushed from the second floor of a pub in Vijayanagar, Mysuru, late on Saturday night following a heated altercation. The deceased, Nishanth, was a resident of Gokulam in Mysuru. | **P5**

6 drown in Cauvery, CM announces Rs 5L relief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

SIX people, including three children, who had gathered for an urus, drowned in the Cauvery river near Arkeshwara Temple in KR Nagar taluk of Mysuru district on Sunday.

All the deceased had come to a nearby dargah. As they were playing in the river, one of them slipped away, while others, trying to rescue the person, entered the water. The deceased were identified as Fatima (42), wife of Ismail from Udayagiri in Mysuru; Mohammed Yasin (23), son of Mohammed Babu, an autorickshaw driver from SBR Layout, Bengaluru; Neha Kausar (19), wife of Mohammed Yasin, from SBR Layout, Bengaluru; Uzeir (5), son of Sadiq, from Udayagiri, Mysuru; Emma Aiman (13), daughter of Arif, from Kadugondanahalli, Bengaluru; and Afif Ahmed (13), child of Riyaz Pasha from Muslim Block, KR Nagar.

Expressing grief, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah posted on X that he was deeply saddened by the deaths. He announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the relatives of each deceased. Mysuru SP Mallikarjun Baladangi and KR Nagar police have visited the spot and are investigating the circumstances that led to the tragedy.

Public gather in front of a hospital in KR Nagar where the survivors are under treatment

NEW CHAPTER

Tata Trusts scraps Parsi-only clause

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

TATA Trusts, led by chairman Noel Tata, on Sunday said it has decided to correct certain clauses in the trust deed of the Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution that restrict trusteeship to Parsis, and that too to those residing in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency.

"The trustees, at their April 17 meeting, have decided to initiate proceedings... for alteration of restrictive clauses with respect to the eligibility of trustees," Tata Trusts said in a rare public statement.

The development comes days after Mehli Mistry, a former trustee of the Tata Trusts, challenged the appointments of industrialist Venu Srinivasan and former defence secretary Vijay Singh to the board of Hirabai Trust in a complaint to the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner.

The dozen-odd trusts, which own 66.4% of the nation's largest business group, have been embroiled in controversy ever since Noel Tata became chairman in 2024. Several trustees questioned the trusts' functioning and sought the listing of holding company Tata Sons.

Non-Zoroastrians have been appointed to the trusts since 2000, following a legal opinion obtained from former Chief Justice of India M H Kania. Tata Sons director R Krishna Kumar became the first non-Parsi trustee on the board of the Hirabai Trust, created under a 1916 codicil to the will of Ratan Tata.

EXPRESS READ

AI tool from CBI to save people from digi-arrest

New Delhi: In a first, the CBI is all set to unveil an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot on Monday to deal with digital arrest fraud cases and to help people verify the authenticity of notices reportedly issued to them. **P9**

PBKS beat LSG by 54 runs, remain on top

Priyansh Arya from PBKS, one of the country's most talked about T20 batting talent alongside Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, smashed his way to 93 as PBKS demolished Lucknow Super Kings by 54 runs in an IPL match on Sunday. **P13**

ALMANAC TODAY

- **Monday:** 20.04.2026
- **Year:** Parabhava
- **Ayana:** Uttharayana
- **Ritu:** Vasantha
- **Masa:** Vaishaka
- **Paksha:** Sukla
- **Tithi:** Thrutheeya 10.54 am
- **Nakshatra:** Krithika 7.50 am
- **Moon in** Mithuna Rashi
- **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm
- **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 21°C | MAX 36°C

FORECAST Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 06.04 am
Sunset 06.32 pm
Moonrise 08.16 am
Moonset 09.43 pm

Contractors demand Rs 30k from PKs as 'regularisation charges'

This, despite the government making the contract workers permanent last year

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

EVEN though the state government regularised the services of around 12,650 Pourakarmikas (PKs) last year, some of them have alleged that contractors are harassing them to pay Rs 30,000 as "regularisation charges". Those who refuse to pay are being verbally attacked, burdened with more work and deliberately marked absent from work, they said.

Pic for repesentational purpose

It was revealed by Pourakarmikas working in Bengaluru South City Corporation's wards, including Girinagar, Hanumanthnagar and Srinagar, requesting that their identities are not to be revealed to avoid further harassment.

"On International Labour Day last year, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah declared that he is providing permanent employment to the contract workers through a special direct recruitment process. However, the contractors are demanding a minimum of Rs 30,000 from us, saying that they were the ones who pressurised the government to take the decision," said a Pourakarmika.

"Those Pourakarmikas who are in favour of the contractors are let free without any work, and the same work is dumped on others who oppose them. To avoid getting caught, contractors have asked one Pourakarmika to collect the money and hand it over to them discreetly," a worker said.

Not stopping there, they complained that they are also being asked to pay Rs 1,000 from their salaries to the contractors every month without fail. "When we were working on a contract basis earlier, they forcefully collected Rs 600 from us. Now, after we are made permanent, we have to pay them Rs 1,000," another Pourakarmika said.

"Our work starts at 6.30 am and gets over by 2.15 pm, with leaves sanctioned only during emergencies. Those who are opposed to paying Rs 30,000 and Rs 1,000 monthly 'hafta' are put to work beyond the work hours and are deliberately deployed at locations where the garbage accumulation is more. "We, too, have families to run. Like everyone, we too have to pay our house rent, pay school fees for our children and take care of our expenses," they said.

Another sanitary worker said, "The problem of contractors demanding Rs 30,000 for regularising and Rs 1,000 'hafta' is across the city. After toiling every day cleaning up the city, the situation is that we can't take home our hard-earned money."

Pourakarmikas said that in order to cover up the extortion, contractors were forcing them to give video declarations that no one was demanding money. They urged the government to conduct an inquiry and take action against the errant contractors.

A top Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) official said that after the regularisation, the Pourakarmikas are directly under the payroll of respective city corporations.

TNIE tried to get a reaction from Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner KN Ramesh and Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, but neither of them responded.

RODENT MENACE

Shivajinagar's vacant plots turn into dumping yards

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

SHIVAJINAGAR is slowly getting plagued by rat infestations and infections as several vacant and demolished properties in the locality have turned into garbage dumping grounds. This has raised serious health and sanitation concerns among residents, who allege inaction by civic authorities despite repeated complaints.

Maria Hussain, a social activist from Shivajinagar said the core issue lies in vacant properties being left unsecured after demolition. Maria said that better coordination between departments is needed to hold property owners accountable. "At least five such properties have become black spots across the area, creating havoc for residents", she said.

Residents have identified multiple affected locations, including Mackan Road, Nehrupuram, 3rd Cross of Narayan Pillai Street and Thimmayya Road, where garbage accumulation has become an issue.

Maria Irene, a resident of Narayan Pillai Street said, "These dumping spots are often located at the entrance of streets, forcing residents to walk through garbage to access their homes." She pointed out a rise in sanitation-related problems due to prolonged dumping. "There is a serious rat infestation and they frequently enter houses, especially ground-floor homes," Irene said. The unhygienic conditions have increased the risk of diseases, particularly among children.

Officials at the Bharathi Nagar ward in Bengaluru Central City Corporation said that a door-to-door garbage collection is made everyday before 10 am, but improper disposal by the public contributes to the problem.

"People are throwing waste at their convenience instead of handing it over during collection hours," said Karthik N P, Junior Health Inspector. He added that notices were issued to owners of vacant properties through the Solid Waste Management team, directing them to clear and secure the sites.

Garbage dumped on a vacant plot on Mackan Road in Shivajinagar

Call to turn civil aviation sector into mfg hub

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

At the International Conference on Future of Aviation and Aerospace held by Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore, experts called for the need to bolster the Indian civil aviation sector as a manufacturer from an assembler.

Retired Prof S Raghunath who co-chaired the conference asked, "Can we build design capabilities instead of remaining an assembling giant? Can policy and regulation keep pace with innovation?"

Dr Kota Harinarayana, the chief designer of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Tejas, said, "In the next two decades, the gamut of state-of-the-art combat aircraft will be produced indigenously. However, in civil aviation, we need to bring a similar focus. We need a good civil transport aircraft system developed indigenously."

Exhibition at Science Gallery throws light on fragmentation of forests

ANUBHAB ROY @Bengaluru

SCIENCE Gallery Bengaluru has launched a new exhibition titled 'Walk Into a Fragmented Forest', which will draw on scientific research to help the public understand forest fragmentation—how large, continuous forests are broken into smaller patches. It was conceived by Shreni Sanghvi and Abhishek Kapahi. The exhibition will run till September 17.

From Dr Meghna Krishnadas's point of view, the exhibition reflects nearly a decade of her research in the Western Ghats as a community ecologist at the National Centre for Biological Sciences. Her work highlights how fragmentation of tropical rainforests disrupts ecosystems, affecting species interactions and overall biodiversity.

If a highway cuts through a forest, it breaks the canopy. This changes how sunlight reaches the ground— instead of soft, dappled light, a strong strip of direct sunlight cuts through the area. Because of this, only plants that can handle or need a lot of light tend to grow there, which can reduce the variety of species and sometimes lead to monocultures.

Krishnadas alluded that the Amazon Rainforest is already being fragmented, which in turn is affecting the local climate there. "These systems have been large swathes with very little light. And when you fragment it, you're suddenly changing those circumstances, flipping things around, and bringing in abiotic conditions that these species may not have experienced. So the goal is to understand what happens if the rules are changed," said Krishnadas, adding that while a change like what is happening in the Amazon Rainforest has not been noted yet in the Western Ghats, it is very likely to occur.

SLUDGE TO WEALTH

BWSSB mulls biogas project, eyes Rs 120cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BANGALORE Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is set to transform sewage sludge into a revenue source for the board. By upgrading raw biogas generated across five of its major sewage treatment plants (STPs) into high-value Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG), the board will unlock an estimated additional revenue of Rs 120 crore over the next two decades, the water board said a press release on Sunday, adding that it will be the first and biggest project of its kind in the country.

While similar initiatives in India, such as a plant in Surat utilizes merely 120 MLD of water, BWSSB's project will utilize 550MLD of sewerage water. To maximize this potential, the BWSSB chairman has issued instructions to expand and install this cutting-edge project wherever bio-digesters are currently present at STPs across the city, BWSSB said.

Currently, most biogas at these STPs is used for in-situ power generation, while one facility simply flares the gas. The project proposes to upgrade this raw biogas into CBG, meeting national standards for injection into the city's gas distribution network or use as a clean transport fuel. By shifting from electricity offsetting to revenue-generating biogas conversion, about Rs 120 crore is the estimated additional revenue potential for BWSSB.

Executed under a robust Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, the private concessionaire will bear the entire Rs 85-crore capital expenditure along with all operational and maintenance costs, ensuring zero financial risk for BWSSB. The board will provide approximately 13,000 sqm of land within STP premises for project operations, without the creation or transfer of any land ownership.

BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar stated, "Processing 550 MLD of sewerage water makes this the biggest and most ambitious project of its kind in India. This brilliantly structured PPP model allows us to generate over Rs 120 crore in fresh revenue without investing a single rupee in capital or operations. It is a monumental win that boosts our financial health, enhances our city's energy security, and sets a powerful national model for India's journey toward energy independence."

The State cabinet recently granted formal approval for the Rs 85-crore biogas purification and compression project, officially authorizing BWSSB to proceed with the 20-year concession agreement.

EXPRESS READ

Nagabhushan conferred PhD at Sri Vidya varsity

Bengaluru: Nagabhushan, a retired officer of Canara Bank and a tabla scholar, was awarded a Doctorate (PhD) for his research titled "Tabla vaadyada hinnele haagu Karnatakada tabla kalavidaru," which talks about the background of tabla and tabla artistes of Karnataka. The PhD was awarded by Sri Vidya International University for Vedic Sciences, in association with Sri Vidya Vishwa Samshodhana Prathishtanam (R), at the convocation ceremony for the year 2026 held recently. Dr BS Srinath from Shankara Cancer Hospital, Nirbhayananda Saraswati Swamiji of Ramakrishna Ashrama, Dr. Narsimhamurthy, Dr. Srinivasamurthy, and Dr. Archana from the university were present on the occasion.

BCCC clean-up drive: 4.7 quintal waste removed

Bengaluru: As part of Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, addressing the city's rank as 5th dirtiest city in India last year, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) held a special cleanliness drive on Sunday, cleaning up places adjacent to public toilets. Nearly 160 Pourakarmikas and 71 other sanitation workers were part of the drive. BCCC Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said they selected 27 public toilets for the cleanup drive and that they cleaned and collected 4.77 quintals of waste. He said awareness was also raised among the general public to avoid dumping around the public toilets in the city.

State to move SC against HC order on bike taxis

INDRA S @ Bengaluru

IN a new turn in the ongoing legal battle over app-based bike taxis, the state has decided to approach the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court's order that lifted a ban on the services. A transport department official said an appeal will be filed soon with the approval of CM Siddaramaiah.

The HC in January set aside an earlier single-judge order prohibiting bike taxis for want of specific state rules, effectively clearing resumption of the operations. The services were halted in June 2025 following court directions. The latest order removes the immediate legal barrier, but the state's move to challenge it in the SC signals the issue is far from settled.

Bike Taxi Welfare Association president Adi Narayan said, "Bike taxis are legal in several states. The law should be the same for everyone." Nearly six lakh families in Karnataka depend on bike taxi services for their livelihood, he said.

Nataraj Sharma, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations, which had opposed the bike taxi operations, said the state had initially missed the 90-day deadline to file an appeal against the HC's January 23 order. However, following internal consultations, the government has now decided to proceed, he said.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

20th April : Taurus Season Open When no one is looking through a telescope, it's merely an instrument. What makes it a telescope is the eyes and mind of the astronomer. Aries alignments involving Mercury, Saturn and Mars are an excellent reminder that the one who makes your life animate is you. The scene isn't happening around or to you. It's happening (SET ITAL)because(END ITAL) of you. You are the scene.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Your attention is a precious commodity that you give generously. It's as though your eyes can send love, your ears can hear the truth through everything, and your heart has no limits to how far it can extend.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
What you do affects people you don't know, perhaps people far across the world, and you'll once again be made aware of that effect. You'll learn more about it. Your curiosity builds bridges.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Some people avoid responsibility because they haven't seen a great example of it yet. When they do that, it's not about you. The best thing you can do is just show what stepping up looks like. It looks good on you, and they'll follow suit.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
There's a reason they call it a "perfect" stranger. Every stranger is a blank slate for people to project their wishes and fears onto. A stranger is ripe for the casting into roles that fit the hopes, fears and current mood of those around them.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Even with matters that seem urgent, you have patience. Your methodical approach simply works better for today's situations. Unhurried movement prevents mistakes. Your steady pacing builds momentum instead of pressure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Today, the borders are much easier to make out than the possibilities. And yet, you still see the possibilities. The heart of hope beats within you. It kind of feels like everything is a "maybe" or a "could happen."

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
There's a dicey interaction today. You don't just handle it well; you understand it while it's happening, adapt, then close it with grace. That's emotional maturity in motion. It wins you trust and fans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
What is stopping you from loving where you are? Maybe there's something to let go of there, whether it's an idea about your role, a judgment, a score or an angry thought. Drop it and love will rush in to take its place.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You trade in an old game that stopped being fun a long time ago for a fresh challenge. Even if you lose at first, you'll have more fun losing at something new than succeeding at something old.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You don't rely on being impressive to be valued. Your presence, humor and awareness carry enough weight on their own. That makes your connections more durable and less dependent on performance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You recognize when someone shifts their tone into one of authority or takes a position of dominance. Maybe you don't like it, but you also recognize they could be reacting out of fear or insecurity, and it says more about them than you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You're managing a fair amount of responsibility for problems that were never your fault and circumstances that no one could have seen coming, least of all you. But this is what love is sometimes -- showing up and handling things.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

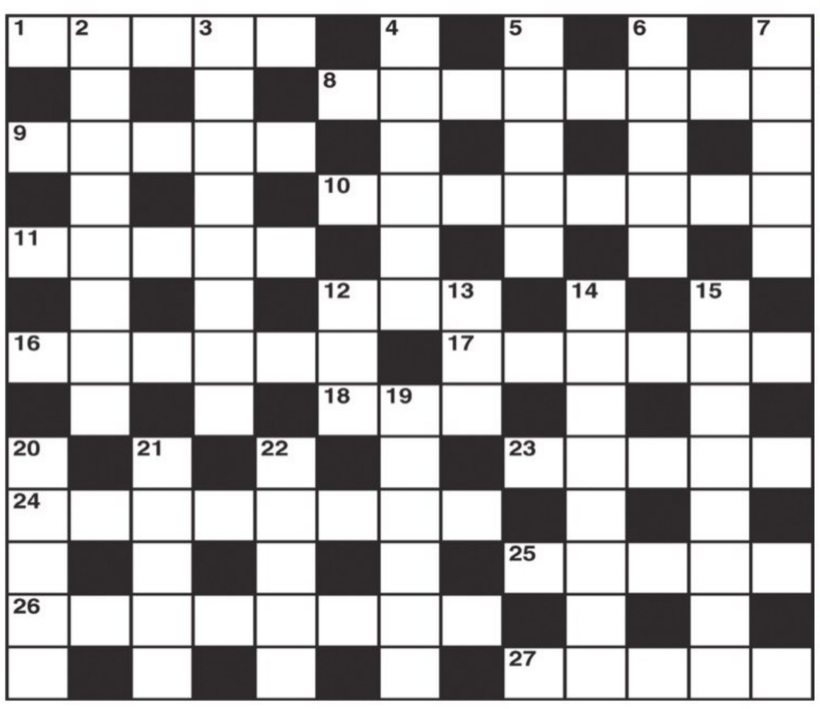
		2			1		3	
					3			6
3	1						2	7
	2				9	7	4	
5								2
	3	7	2				8	
7	6						9	4
8			3					
	4		7			5		

7	9	3	6	5	8	2	1	4
6	2	1	3	9	4	5	8	7
5	4	8	2	1	7	9	3	6
3	6	2	5	4	1	8	7	9
8	5	4	7	3	9	6	2	1
1	7	9	8	6	2	3	4	5
2	1	6	4	8	5	7	9	3
9	3	7	1	2	6	4	5	8
4	8	5	9	7	3	1	6	2

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Weapon made from spare parts (5)
8 Outstanding feature of country spot (8)
9 Many are fond of a spice (5)
10 Maybe finding rent a lot but not complaining (8)
11 Deprive one of his occupation (5)
12 Take a chance with the better half (3)
16 Squirm and wither away (6)
17 Spoke of alternative possible date (6)
18 Furious, being brought back by parent (3)
23 Lives with a girl in spring (5)
24 Gives way and dies (8)
25 Play it softly lad with a ring (5)
26 Arrival of actor is seen to cause delight (8)
27 Fresh ideas give confidence (5)

DOWN

2 Friend goes to States for talks (8)
3 Recommend someone to take legal action (8)
4 Promise the old man a part (6)
5 Dread variety of snake (5)
6 Fare for a boy going to South Africa (5)
7 Stake out and fish (5)
12 It may be posted in quadruple (3)
13 Look up the French word for cat (3)
14 The fighters' craft (8)
15 Honoured by the voters but dishonoured by the bank (8)
19 Superior office (6)
20 Rewriting Yeats up to the moment (2,3)
21 A charming French accent (5)
22 Sand possibly holds uranium in this Arab country (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Weaverbird, 6 Amos, 10 Czech, 11 Outfitter, 12 Diocesan, 13 Allot, 15 Italics, 17 Abolish, 19 Enslave, 21 Mayfair, 22 Sinai, 24 Eventual, 27 At the time, 28 Titan, 29 Ease, 30 Santa Maria.

Down: 1 Wick, 2 Americans, 3 Ethic, 4 Blouses, 5 Rotunda, 7 Motel, 8 Stretchers, 9 Minatory, 14 Fire escape, 16 Imagined, 18 In a canter, 20 Evelina, 21 Mae West, 23 Notes, 25 Totem, 26 Inca.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TUFEL

SIBCA

TRHOYW

SIVAHL

Don't let taste fool you. Elasticity is just as important.
What about this one? It's pretty tasty.
Bill's Card Store
2/23
WHEN IT CAME TO PICKING OUT THE RIGHT BUBBLE GUM, SHE WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SWAMP GOING QUIRKY GLANCE
Answer: The best way for the electricians to install so many outlets was to keep — PLUGGING AWAY

Central University of Karnataka (CUK) in Kadaganchi, Kalaburagi, will hold its 10th convocation at 2pm on April 22. Vice President CP Radhakrishnan will be the chief guest and deliver the convocation address. Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will also be present

Bizman harassed, blackmailed 50 women, finds probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE probe into the sexual abuse case involving a woman Customs officer by Pulakeshinagar police has revealed that the accused businessman allegedly blackmailed and harassed nearly 50 women, including those from various government departments, after they did not heed to his demands.

The accused, M Kripalani, a resident of Indiranagar, runs an electronics business and is involved in importing goods. He was arrested by the police after the Customs official filed a complaint, accusing him of sexual abuse and threatening to release her private photos.

A police officer said Kripalani initially did not cooperate during questioning. However, technical evidence including his phone and other data revealed that multiple women had fallen victim to his trap.

Police said he would approach women officers on the pretext of work and after building trust, invite them to dinner. This later developed into close relationships, during which he allegedly promised marriage to establish physical relationships. If they did not heed his demands, he would exploit them by threatening to file cases or release their private photos or videos. The officer said he specifically targeted GST and Customs officials, and had harassed nearly 50 women officers.

Kripalani even assaulted police personnel twice during medical check-ups. Police said when he was in custody and brought to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital for a medical examination, he created a ruckus, snatched a mobile phone from a police officer, and allegedly assaulted him. Later, at Victoria Hospital, he again assaulted police personnel.

Following these incidents, two separate FIRs were registered against him for assault and for obstructing a government servant from performing duty at Commercial Street and VV Puram police stations. He is now remanded in judicial custody.

As losses mount, auto drivers warn of protests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

Autorickshaws line up for LPG at a fuel station in the city on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

AUTORICKSHAWS form long queues at fuel pumps as auto LPG supply crunch continues to hit Bengaluru drivers. Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) bunks have seen prices rise from Rs 60 to Rs 90, while private outlets charge up to Rs 130. Drivers report daily losses and income disruption, with hours lost in queues. Unions demand financial relief, loan moratoriums, and have also warned of protests if the government fails to respond.

M Manjunath, the president of Adarsha Auto Union said that while LPG is available at PSU-run fuel stations, supply remains insufficient to meet demand. He pointed out that nearly one lakh autos in the city depend on LPG, while a significant number have shifted to CNG and electric alternatives, masking the full extent of the crisis. "Earlier, LPG costed around Rs 60 per litre. Now, drivers are incurring daily losses of around Rs 250 due to higher prices and reduced working hours," Manjunath said.

He added that long waiting times that often extend to three to four hours, have severely impacted earnings, with many drivers unable to repay vehicle loans, pay house rent, or cover school fees. Some have even stopped operating autos and shifted to other forms of work to sustain themselves.

Echoing similar concerns, Rudramurthy from another drivers' union said that even after 20 days, the situation has not improved. "The only change is that queues are now limited to PSU bunks, as drivers avoid expensive private stations charging up to Rs 150 per litre," he said.

The Adarsha union and associated unions demand the state government immediate relief measures, including a three-month moratorium on vehicle loans and microfinance repayments, as well as flexibility in school fee payments for drivers' families. They have also sought direct government intervention to stabilise LPG supply and prices.

'Infections may trigger early dementia'

ANUBHAB ROY @ Bengaluru

RECENT studies have shown that infections, even those resulting from something as common as tooth decay, may have a strong concurrence with early onset of dementia. Experts in city, being sceptical, warn of the possible ramifications of the findings.

The results of a quantitative research conducted on Finnish citizens make a strong distinction between correlation and causation. Considering that the findings fall in the former category, it was found that severe cystitis, pneumonia or tooth decay could increase the risk of dementia. People or patients considered for the research treated at hospitals for these infections were found to be significantly more likely to develop dementia, including an early-onset form of the condition, within the next six years.

Dr Usha Humbi, a consultant-neurologist at Narayana Health City, said, "This research holds ground in India as we have a high prevalence of chronic infections, including periodontal (gum) disease and urinary tract infections (UTIs), which is often undertreated due to a lack of awareness or access to preventive care. Given our ageing population, it is critical for Indian families to recognise that a sudden hospitalisation for an infection today may cause a neurological battle tomorrow."

Even anecdotally, doctors claim, this is a trend that is consistent with the patients they treat. Dr Priya Raghavan, a senior consultant-psychiatrist at Cadabams Hospitals said, "It is not uncommon for patients or caregivers to report that cognitive or behavioural changes became noticeable after a severe infection or hospitalisation. These may present as confusion, memory difficulties, or a decline in overall functioning."

> **Microglia (the brain's immune cells) can get into a state of chronic overdrive that kills healthy neurons**
> Dr Usha, consultant-neurologist

While Dr Humbi agrees that the findings can be verified as only correlative for now, saying that a 'plausible biological mechanism for causation' may exist.

"We often refer to the 'two-hit hypothesis' -- the first is the 'silent' buildup of amyloid plaques (the correlation) and the second is the 'biological storm' of inflammation (the potential cause of acceleration). When a severe infection occurs, the body is flooded with cytokines. If these cross the blood-brain barrier, they can activate microglia (the brain's immune cells), putting them into a state of chronic overdrive that kills healthy neurons. The infection may not create dementia, but it is likely to accelerate the process," she said.

Alcoholic found dead in car, kin suspect foul play

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 56-year-old man who was missing since Friday, was found dead in his car near Manipal County Road in the Electronics City police limits on Saturday morning. Police registered a suspicious death case based on a complaint filed by his family members, who alleged it is a murder linked to a financial dispute.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the deceased, Narayanappa, a resident of Basapura, was an alcoholic. On Friday, Narayanappa and two friends, including Manjunatha Reddy, went to a bar at 9.30am in his car. They reportedly called the bar cashier and consumed alcohol, which is said to have been their daily routine. Narayanappa and Reddy were heavily intoxicated.

Reddy then drove the car for about a kilometre before stopping it near Manipal County Road. He went home as he was unable to drive further. On Saturday, after remembering that he had left the car, he returned to the spot and found Narayanappa dead inside the vehicle. Police added that the family initially did not search for him as he regularly consumed alcohol and would not respond to calls. Their movement from the bar to the car park was captured on CCTV footage. Postmortem of the body revealed that Narayanappa had consumed alcohol and was suffering from organ failure.

Police believe it to be a case of natural death. But the family alleges foul play. Reddy is also being questioned, the police said.

EXPRESS READ

Absconding accused involved in 17 cases held

MANGALURU: Moodabidri Police arrested a man who was absconding for four years and is allegedly involved in 17 cases. The accused, Abdul Basheer (50) was arrested from a rented house at BC Road in Moodabidri. He had cases registered across multiple police stations, most cases relate to violations under the Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1964, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Arms Act. **ENS**

Newborn's body found stuffed in schoolbag

MADIKERI: The body of a newborn boy was found stuffed inside a school bag and dumped near the Kushalnagar–Koppa Bridge in Madikeri within the jurisdiction of the Kushalnagar Town Police Station. The bag was discovered by a passerby near the Cauvery riverbank. On checking the bag, the person found the body of the infant and alerted the authorities. Sub-Inspector Geetha of the Crime Branch, along with police personnel, visited the spot. **ENS**

HON'BLE SUPREME COURT MONITORED PROJECTS
Executed Through
NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED
(A Navratna PSU of Govt of India)
Through E-Auction
Sale of Tech Park project at Knowledge Park-V, Greater Noida (W), UP of erstwhile Amrapali Group through NBCC.
Interested parties may register themselves on RAILTEL (The agency engaged by NBCC (INDIA) LTD for holding e-auction) or on website https://nbccauction.enivida.com.
Last date for submission of EMD is 23.04.2026.
E-Auction will be held on 24.04.2026.
For Details, Please call: 9772907414

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS notice is hereby given that Our Client Chaitra Vasudevan, D/o.Vasudevan, Aged 32 Years, Residing at Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560 010 had approached the Hon'ble City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH-41) in OS No 2129/2026 seeking order of temporary injunction by way of filing Two(2) I.A's

The Hon'ble City Civil and Sessions Court (CCH-41) in OS No 2129/2026 vide order dated 04/04/2026 was pleased to allow Two(2) I.A's and passed order as *"the defendants are hereby restrained from telecasting/broadcasting/transmitting/publishing/ distributing/sharing any material in any manner either temporary or permanent form through print, electronic or digital form or making viral any content derogatory against the plaintiffs in social media platforms till filing of written statement and objection to the application"*

The Hon'ble Court further directed that provision of order XXXIX Rule 3(A) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 shall be complied by causing public notice in prominent local dailies

WHEREFORE in compliance of order dated 04/04/2026 passed by Hon'ble Court, this Notice is issued intimating to restrain from telecasting/broadcasting/transmitting/publishing/ distributing/sharing any material in any manner either temporary or permanent form through print, electronic or digital form or making viral any content derogatory against the our client/plaintiff in social media. The Next date of hearing of suit is on 24/06/2026.

Sd/- Surya Mukundaraj.L
Sanjay Yadav.B
Advocates, Bangalore.

CCH-44 HG : 11.06.2026
IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
Misc. No. 1149/2025

BETWEEN : Renaissance Prospero Residents Welfare Association, Renaissance Prospero Apartments, Bellary Road, Byataravanapura. Bangalore-92. Represented by its secretary Mr. Ravi Asrani ...Petitioner

AND : 1. M/s Prospero Realty Ltd. Company incorporated under companies act, 1956 Office at 5AC-510, HRBR Layout, 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560043 Represented by its Authorized Representative

2. M/s Hebbal Infra Space Private Limited. Company incorporated under companies act. 1956 Office at 5AC-510, HRBR Layout, 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560043 Represented by its Authorized Representative. ...Respondents

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENTS UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

1. M/s Prospero Realty Ltd. Company incorporated under companies act, 1956 Office at 5AC-510, HRBR Layout, 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560043 Represented by its Authorized Representative

2. M/s Hebbal Infra Space Private Limited. Company incorporated under companies act. 1956 Office at 5AC-510, HRBR Layout, 2nd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560043 Represented by its Authorized Representative.

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Order XXXIX RULE 2A of Civil Procedure Code, 1908 to register a case of disobedience of interim order dated 29-01-2025 by the Respondent and punish the Respondent for contempt of interim order of this Hon'ble Court dated 29-01-2025 in O.S. 692/2025. You, the Respondents are hereby notified to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through a pleader or person authorized as per law to answer all the material question of facts and law relating to the present petition **on 11th Day of June Two Thousand and Twenty Six (11/06/2026) at 11:00 A.M.**

Take Notice that, in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above the Petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this the 18th Day of April Two thousand Twenty Six (18/04/2026).

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate Bola Vedvyas Shenoy
739, 1st Floor, 5th A Cross, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064.

बीआरआईसी बायोटेक्नोलॉजी विभाग का संगठन BRIC a DBT Organization
आर जी सी बी खोजें जो रचें बेहतर कल RGCB DISCOVERIES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL (BRIC) - RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY (RGCB)
A Biotechnology Institute of the Government of India, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry for Science & Technology, Thycaud PO Thiruvananthapuram 695014, Kerala, India www.rgcb.res.in

PhD ADMISSIONS 2026
Advt No. RGCB/PhD/2026-II/April 2026 April 16, 2026

BRIC-RGCB invites application for admission to the **Ph.D. program 2026** August session in various domains of Biotechnology from post-graduates having a minimum of 60% marks and 4-year Bachelor's degree having a minimum of 75% marks in Life/ Environmental/ Veterinary/ Pharmaceutical/ Medical Sciences or allied subjects and as per UGC guideline. The candidate should have a valid JRF (UGC/CSIR/ICMR/ DBT or any other nationally-competitive fellowship) offered by the Government of India and should be valid for a period of 5 years. Complete information, application format, eligibility and other details are available on the RGCB website **(www.rgcb.res.in)**. Applications along with prescribed fees must be submitted online through the link given in the web portal on or before **May 10, 2026.** Incomplete applications and applications without processing fees will be rejected.

Sd/-
Director

QuoteExpress THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED › MARK TWAIN

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031.
TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | **FAX:** +91 44 4564 4022.

IDFC FIRST Bank

APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

The Borrower/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this notice.

Loan Account Number	Borrower/s/ Co-Borrower/s & Guarantors Name	Description of the Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice		Date and Type of Possession Taken
			Date	Outstanding Amount (Rs.)	
67211815	1. Shivakumar MS 2. Jayamma S	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 11/07, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No. 152900202600800007, According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Maralebekuppe Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Mahimanahalli Village, Kanakapura Taluk And Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562117, Measuring East To West 15.24 Mtr. And North To South 18.28 Mtr., In Total Measuring 278.58 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 108.88 Sq. Meters. The Property Is Bounded On The:-**East By:** House Of Honnamma **West By:** Site Of Umesh **North By:** Sarvajanika Bheedi **South By:** Land Of Basavarajappa	20.08.2025	Rs. 7,44,668.90/-	16-04-2026 Possession
82673850 & 153276745	1. Aneesh Mm, 2. Jayamma M	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 89/64, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No.152900204101100042, According To Form No. 11b, Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, I Gollahalli Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Marigowdanadoddi Village, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562119, Measuring East To West 8.2296 Mtr. And North To South 10.3632 Mtr., In Total Measuring 85.28 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 85.28 Sq. Meters, The Property Is Bounded On The: **East:** Road **West:** House Of Putta Gowramma **North:** Road **South:** House Of Jayamma	06.09.2025	Rs. 7,56,316.31/-	16-04-2026 Possession
94147840	1. Lakshmma N, 2. Nagaraju K	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 388/211/378, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E-katha No. 152900200500601058, According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Kadahalli Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Boohalli Village, Kanakapura Taluk And Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562126, Measuring East To West 10.365 Mtr. And North To South 26.219 Mtr., In Total Measuring 271.76 Sq. Meters And Building Thereon 189.75 Sq. Meters. The Property Is Bounded On The: East: House Of Basavanna West: House Of Jayamma North: Site Of Kullegowda South: Road	13.12.2025	Rs. 9,32,714.45/-	16-04-2026 Possession
109491783	1. Puttaswamy HS, 2. Halagamma M, 3. Dundamma S	All That Piece And Parcele Of The Property Bearing No. 63/59/378/346/20, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property And Katha No. 152900203102100053 According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Achalu Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Honganidoddi Village, Kanakapura Taluk And Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562117, Measuring East To West 10.66 Mtr. And North To South 15.54 Mfr., In Total Measuring 165.83 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 165.83 Sq. Meters, And **Bounded As:- East:** House Of Hanumaiah **West:** House Of Chikkanna **North:** Remaining Property Of Same Number **South:** Road	22.11.2025	Rs. 7,09,661.07/-	16-04-2026 Possession
125317512	1. Nagamma M, 2. Kiran M,	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 155/170, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. Ande Katha No.152900204101320030, According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, I Gollahalli Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Arekoppa Village, Kanakapura Taluk And Ramanagar Dist, Measuring East To West 11.8872 Mtr And North To South 11.8872 Mtr, In Total Measuring 141.31 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 141.30 Sq. Meters, And The Property Is Bounded On The: **On Or Towards The East -** House Of Chinnayya **On Or Towards The West -** Land Of Thundayya **On Or Towards The North -** Land Of Puttasampige **On Or Towards The South -** Road And Land Of Kullayya	30.10.2025	Rs. 7,38,374.65/-	16-04-2026 Possession
148121220	1. Nagendra Prasad Ns, 2. Mangala Gowramma	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 1/1, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E-katha No. 152900202900500218 According To Form No. 9 And 11 A Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Sathanuru Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Nagarasanakote Village, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562126, Measuring East To West 8.23 Mtr. And North To South 18.29 Mtr., In Total Measuring 150.52 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 75.22 Sq. Meters, And **Bounded As:- East:** Property Of Madayya **West:** Property Of Govindaiah **North:** Government Road **South:** Property Of Chinnagirigowda	20.09.2025	Rs. 10,59,335.71/-	16-04-2026 Possession
134675585	1. HS Mahadevkumar, 2. Abhilasha M	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 112/128, Having Rdpr Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No.152900200801300107, According To Form No. 11b Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Kolliganahalli Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Honnalaganadoddi Village, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar District, Karnataka-562112, Measuring East To West 8.8392 Mtr. And North To South 38.1 Mtr., In Total Measuring 336.77 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 336.77 Sq. Meters. **North:** Road **South:** Road **West:** Walking Passage And Property Of Rudraiah **East:** Property Of Nagaraju S/o Puttamadaiah	30.06.2025	Rs. 14,37,974.32/-	16-04-2026 Possession

The Borrower/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)** for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

Date : 16-04-2026
Place : Ramanagara-Karnataka

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Rajesh D, S/o. Lakshman, 2) Mr. D N Lakshman, S/o. K L Narasappa	Loan Account No. 34010430000023 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.2532/2765/15, situated at 2nd Ward, Veerabhadranapalya, 3rd Stage, Doddaballapura Town and Taluk and Bangalore Rural District, measuring East-West 30 feet, North-South 14 feet, totally measuring 420 Sq.feet and **Bounded on: East by:** 20 feet Road, **West by:** Site No.07, **North by:** Site No.05, **South by:** Property bearing Sy.No.81.	**Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 16.04.2026**	**Rs.5,01,253.79** (Rupees Five Lakh One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Three and Seventy Nine Paisa Only) **due as on 13-04-2026**
2	1) Mr. Arun N, S/o. Narasimhappa, 2) Mr. N Kiran, S/o. Narasimhappa	Loan Account No. 46459420000163 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing No.18, situated at Sonnadenahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, presently comes under the limits of Doddahulluru Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Remaining property, **North by:** Jayamma, **South by:** Remaining property. Measuring 6.5 x 9 Mtrs.	**Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 16.04.2026**	**Rs.2,68,424.96** (Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Four and Ninety Six Paisa Only) **due as on 13-04-2026**
3	1) Mrs. Triveni Muniraj, 2) Mr. Muniraju M	Loan Account No. 34019630001172 34019410001149 Loan Amount: Rs.2,50,000/- Rs.1,99,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel ofthe immovable property bearing No.53, Assessment No.13, situated at Chokkasandra Village, Hoskote Taluk, presently comes under the Limits of Nandagudi Village Panchayath, and **Bounded by the (as per Khatha): East by:** Road, **West by:** Hanumappa, **North by:** Venkateshappa, **South by:** Mugappa. Measuring 30* 40 Feet.	**Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 17-04-2026**	**Rs.4,25,275.35** (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five and Thirty Five Paisa Only) **due as on 15-04-2026**
4	1) Mr. Madhu Kumar, 2) Mrs. Lakshmi	Loan Account No. 47469430002140 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Katha No.3/2/2/3, situated at Rampuradoddi Village, KasabaHobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District, Presently comes under the limits of Mayaganahalli Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Chikkaswamy, **West by:** Chikanna, **North by:** Nilagaiah, **South by:** Road. Measuring East to West 45 feet North to South 90 feet. Total 4050 Sq.feet.	**Date of NPA: 03-03-2026 Demand Notice Date: 17-04-2026**	**Rs.4,85,584.76** (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four and Paisa Seventy Six Only) **due as on 15-04-2026**
5	1) Mr. Madhu G N, 2) Mrs. Amulu S	Loan Account No. 46459430000357 Loan Amount: Rs.5,0,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing No.17, Janjaru No.215, situated at Ganjarnahalli Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Shivanapura Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** Road, **West by:** House of Muniyappa, **North by:** House of Thimmaya, **South by:** Road. Measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet.	**Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 15-04-2026**	**Rs.4,08,178.63** (Rupees Four Lakh Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy Eight and Sixty Three Paisa Only) **due as on 13-04-2026**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 18.04.2026, Place: Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

Energy Minister KJ George on Sunday stressed that coordinated and structured efforts, alongside policy and regulation, are crucial for achieving a successful energy transition

WOMEN, INTERRUPTED

In all walks of life, women are staking claim for their rightful inheritance, and politics is no exception. The journey towards 33 per cent reservation for the distaff side in state assemblies and Parliament may have been interrupted, but it is only a matter of time before women break free from the manacles of conservatism, dynastic dogmas and paternal manipulation

PIC: PTI

BIG PICTURE

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR

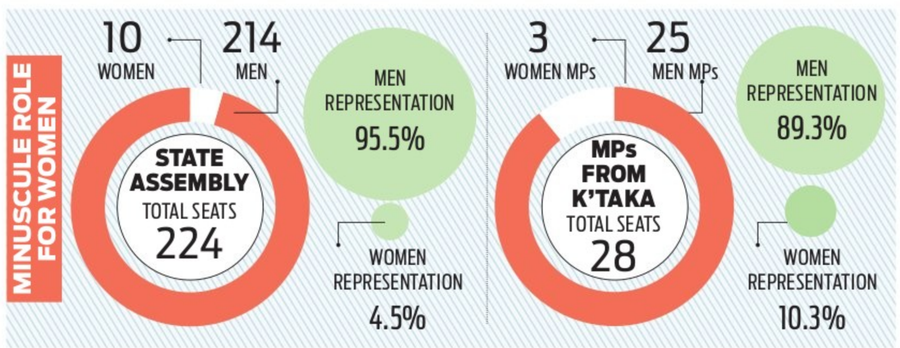
IN a major political development, the proposed Constitutional amendment linked to the implementation of women's reservation framework was defeated in the Lok Sabha on Friday, after it failed to secure the mandatory two-thirds majority required for passage. The Women's Reservation Bill sought to operationalise the provision for reserving 33 per cent seats for women in Parliament and state legislative assemblies.

However, divisions among political parties over issues such as linking of the Bill to census and delimitation, and the timing of implementation led to the amendment falling short during voting in the special session of Parliament on Friday.

According to political observers, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly would have seen an increase of seats by at least 90 if the quota bill linked to delimitation of constituencies came into force and the number of Lok Sabha segments from Karnataka would have risen in number by 13 to 14. Opinion is, however, divided about the quota bill as all the opposition parties opposed its linking to delimitation of constituencies while many political observers felt the bill would be effective only if it was linked to the census plus delimitation.

The Women's Reservation Bill, 2023, was passed by Parliament as the 106th Constitutional Amendment to enhance women's representation in legislatures. The legislation provides for one-third reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. Under the provisions of the Bill, 33 per cent of seats in Lok Sabha and all state Assemblies will be reserved for women. The quota will also apply to the Delhi Legislative Assembly. One-third of seats is already reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) will be earmarked for women belonging to these categories.

The legislation specifies that reservation will come into effect only after the completion of the next census and subsequent delimitation exercise. Reserved constituencies for women will be rotated after each delimitation to ensure wider representation across regions. The Bill provides for reservation to remain in force for a period of 15 years, though Parliament may extend it further if required. However, reservation does not apply to Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Councils. The legislation is aimed at increasing women's participation in law-making bodies, where their representation has historically remained limited.



Men hold the strings

Karnataka continues to see limited representation of women in both the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha, with political observers noting that parties often field women candidates primarily from influential political families rather than promoting grassroots leadership.

Despite growing discussions on gender parity, women's presence in the Assembly remains modest. Analysts argue that the selection process within major political parties tends to favour candidates with established political lineage, leaving fewer opportunities for first-generation women leaders.

Among the few women Members of Parliament from the state, two come from prominent political backgrounds. Davangere MP Prabha Mallikarjun belongs to the family of senior leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa, while Chikkodi MP Priyanka Jarkiholi is from the influential Jarkiholi political family of Gokak. Their selection, observers say, reflects the broader trend of dynastic influence in women's candidature.

Political observers point out that the scenario could have been markedly different had the proposed Women's Reservation framework been implemented. The reservation of seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies was expected to open doors for candidates from diverse social and economic backgrounds, thereby broadening representation beyond established families.

Several people argue that such a shift would not only increase the numerical presence of women but also alter the nature of electoral politics in Karnataka by encouraging participation from grassroots activists, professionals, and leaders from marginalised communities.

With the debate over women's representation continuing, stakeholders stress that meaningful legislative measures are needed to ensure women from across sections gain access to the political mainstream.

Women's quota bill and Karnataka Assembly

The proposed women's reservation framework, which faced a setback in Parliament, would have significantly reshaped representation in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly, if implemented. The Women's Reservation law seeks to reserve 33 per cent of seats in all state Assemblies, including Karnataka. The state currently has 224 Assembly constituencies, meaning around 74-75 seats would be earmarked for women after implementation.

The reservation would also apply within seats already reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, ensuring representation of women from these communities. The reserved constituencies would be rotated after delimitation, bringing different regions under the quota over time. Political observers note that the defeat of the amendment in Parliament delays the possibility of reserving seats for women in the Karnataka Assembly.

Noted politician and former MLC Mahantesh Kavatagimath described the bill as historic if implemented, and said it would make way for the aggressive development of the country with women in frontline politics. "Once the bill is implemented, women folk will have a major say in all the important affairs and policies of the government and we will also see the emergence of a large number of women leaders across the country," Kavatagimath adds.

The number of parliamentary constituencies in Karnataka will increase by 12 to 14 seats, and assembly segments by about 90 to 100 seats once the bill comes into effect, he said, adding that the bill would change the face of Karnataka politics if implemented.

Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi, Congress MP from Chikkodi, has voiced strong opposition to the 2026 delimitation bill which was linked to the women's quota bill, warning that it could disturb India's federal structure and political balance among states. She cautioned that southern states, which have performed well in family planning, education and healthcare, could lose parliamentary representation if seats are allocated purely on population basis. She noted that states with larger populations would gain more seats, potentially upsetting the delicate federal balance. Such a shift, she said, could create regional bias in central policy-making and lead to neglect of developed states. Belagavi MLA Abhay Patil said, "The Congress, which opposed women's reservation, has today revealed its true anti-women stance by snatching away the rights of mothers and sisters in the country. Shame on Congress."

Political analysts see setback, not end

Many politicians have termed the defeat of the women's quota bill in the Lok Sabha as a significant setback, while noting that the broader push for increased representation of women in legislatures remains intact. Analysts said the voting outcome reflected the absence of consensus among political parties, particularly over linking the women's quota with census and delimitation exercises. According to observers, while most parties support greater participation of women in politics, differences over timing and implementation led to the bill's defeat.

Several Congress leaders pointed out that tying reservation to delimitation complicated the reform and contributed to political divisions. They noted that concerns were raised about potential changes in constituency boundaries and their impact on regional representation. Despite the setback, several politicians believe the demand for women's reservation will remain a key issue in future parliamentary debates. They said the development delays immediate implementation but keeps the question of enhancing women's representation alive in the national political agenda.

BJP never pressed for women's quota: CM

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Ranebennur (Haveri district)

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserted that the BJP has never consistently demanded 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies, while reiterating that the Congress does not oppose the quota.

Speaking at a programme in Ranebennur town, Haveri district, where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various developmental works, Siddaramaiah said that the Women's Reservation Bill had already been passed in both Houses of the Parliament in 2023. He, however, objected to linking the implementation of the reservation with the process of constituency delimitation.

He recalled that reservation for women in local bodies was introduced through the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments during the tenure of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. "The BJP never demanded 33% reservation for women in district and taluk panchayats earlier. Now, they are raising the issue for political reasons," the CM said.

Siddaramaiah expressed concern that the delimitation based on population would be detrimental to southern states. "If representation is increased by 50%, Karnataka's seats would rise to 42, while northern states would gain disproportionately. Our opposition is to this imbalance, not to women's reservation. We support women's reservation," the CM said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah initiates development works in Ranebennur town, Haveri district, on Sunday | EXPRESS

Siddaramaiah further stated that any constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha and ratification by at least half of the states. He said the Congress-led opposition alliance has opposed the delimitation aspect, not the reservation itself.

Questioning the delay in implementation, he asked why PM Narendra Modi had not enforced the Bill despite it being passed with an overwhelming majority. "Had the Bill been introduced without linking it to delimitation, there would have been no opposition," Siddaramaiah said, accusing the PM of politicising the issue in view of upcoming elections in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

'Deliberately allowed to fail'

Taking to social media platform 'X', the CM said that the Women's Reservation Bill was introduced only to be "deliberately allowed to fail" as part of a political strategy.

Calling the move an "insult to the women of India" and "a betrayal of their long-standing demand for fair representation in legislative bodies", the CM said women across the country will not "forgive or forget this injustice". Siddaramaiah said that Karnataka will stand united with other southern States in opposing any move that undermines their political representation.

He accused the Union Government of rushing the Bill without adequate debate or consensus-building, claiming it was a calculated attempt to portray the Opposition as anti-women. "Indian women are not naive, they can see through such political theatre," he said, criticising the PM for not consulting the Opposition parties or senior women leaders on a matter affecting nearly half the population.

"There was no transparency, no effort to build consensus and only an expectation of blind support. This is an affront to democracy," he said.

"Women's representation cannot be made contingent on a future and uncertain exercise. If the intent were genuine, it could have been implemented immediately," the CM added.

He noted contradictions between references to earlier census data and claims of a potential 50% increase in seats, which he said cast doubt on the Centre's intentions.

Bill passed in '23, but kept in cold storage, says Kharge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AICC president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha **Mallikarjuna Kharge** on Sunday questioned PM Narendra Modi as to why he had kept the women's reservation bill in cold storage and did not implement 33% quota for women, though it was unanimously passed in Parliament in 2023.

"Yesterday, the Delimitation Bill was defeated, which is against SC/STs and states going for elections. That's why all parties decided to defeat it together. But Modi is saying the Mahila Aarakshan Bill is defeated. The Mahila Aarakshan Bill is different and new delimitation bill is different. We unanimously passed the Mahila Aarakshan Bill in 2023 itself. Modiji himself congratulated all parties for unanimity," he told reporters.

"Why did he keep it 30 months in cold storage, I want to ask. He has not even notified the bill which was passed in 2023. It was notified only at 3am on April 16. It means the bill was not in existence, but still he brought an amendment. To which bill? So he is just playing to the gallery... that he is for women and opposition are against it," he elaborated.

Kharge claimed the Congress has been fighting for women's reservation as it has brought the Bill in 2010, but it was unfortunately defeated in the lower House. "After that again we cooperated in 2023 and it was passed. Why did he not implement it?," he said. Kharge stated, "BJP is the most cunning party. They don't respect women. They themselves say Shudras and women should not be respected, and women should be kept away from political power, even economic power.."

Kharge said Congress was for equal political representation for women since pre-independence as Motilal Nehru had filed a report in 1928. He also pointed out that the party has had Sarojini Naidu as the country's first president, and was led from the front by women like Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

Fearing that their existence would be threatened if women get reservation, they ensured the historic bill did not get a two-thirds majority
— TA Sharavana, MLC

JDS lambasts INDIA bloc over Women's Reservation Bill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MLC TA Sharavana has alleged that the Congress and INDIA bloc leaders have set fire to the future of women and criticised the Congress and the INDIA bloc over the Women's Reservation Bill. The Janata Dal (Secular) MLC also alleged that Opposition parties had failed the objective of giving priority to women in all spheres of administration and providing 33% reservation in Parliament, by not ensuring the passage of the bill.

"Fearing that their existence would be threatened if women get reservation, they ensured the historic bill did not get a two-thirds majority. Through this, the true colours of the Congress have been exposed," he lashed out. Sharavana also credited former PM HD Deve Gowda for introducing the concept of women's reservation, particularly in local bodies, and said the idea had its roots in the Janata Dal's policies. He welcomed efforts to expand the framework to the national level. He further stated that the parties in the INDIA bloc have become "anti-women" and had obstructed efforts to provide equal political representation. He urged women voters to reject these parties in upcoming elections.

Women will teach 'Family Owned and Family Operated' parties lesson: Thakur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP MP and former Union minister Anurag Singh Thakur on Sunday warned the Congress, TMC, DMK, and the Samajwadi Party that the women of the country will teach the 'Family Owned and Family Operated' (FOFO) opposition parties a lesson for blocking the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill.

Thakur framed the Opposition's resistance as a "battle line against the Ma*trushakti* (*m*other power) of India," warning that "those who harass women—like Ravana, the Kauravas, and Kansa—eventually meet their end."

He said that "FOFO parties" have a fear of young, dynamic, and talented women coming from the grassroots level. "If misogyny were an Olympic sport, Congress would win gold. On a global scoreboard of misogynistic politics, Rahul Gandhi can take the top spot," he said, adding that those who never stood by women are now pretending to be their champions. "Congress, TMC, DMK, and SP have strangled women's reservation for the fifth time. Shame on them. The mothers and sisters of this country will never forget this and will never forgive them. For them (Congress), power was more important than empowering women. That is the true face of the Gandhi family. There is a saying: 'Nari satae teen mite—Ravana, Kaurava, and Kansa.' Now you can add the name of Congress to it," he said.

"No loss, only gain... Not even a single southern state is going to lose (seats), all are going to gain. Southern states are in a win-win situation... 129 seats as of today out of 543, and it is going to be 195 seats. I request Congress, DMK, and other political parties to stop lying about the loss to the southern Indian states," Thakur said.

He dubbed it the opposition's "false narrative" that delimitation would punish and hurt southern states, labelling it a manufactured crisis by the DMK and Congress.

BJP MP Anurag Thakur addresses the media in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

"In 2010, 'Masterstroke of Duplicity,' the UPA government achieved an overwhelming 186-1 victory in the Rajya Sabha but deliberately refused to table the bill in the Lok Sabha for four consecutive years, allowing it to lapse to appease allies like the SP and RJD," he alleged.

Thakur said Congress voted Yes to the 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam only because its implementation was trapped behind Congress' own 1976 emergency-era delimitation freeze, safely delaying the reality until 2034. "When the Modi Government introduced the 131st Amendment Bill in 2026 to break that freeze, bypass the 2026 census hurdle, and advance the 33% reservation to the 2029 elections, Congress and its allies hypocritically voted NO. Only the implementation year changed between the two votes, proving that Congress voted yes to the delay and no to the delivery," he said.

Fearing Modi taking credit, Cong opposing bill: Tejasvi

Bengaluru South BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said, "Congress is opposing it out of fear that PM Modi will benefit from its success. If women's reservation is implemented, women will be in favour of Modi," he said

"If more seats and votes are given to those with higher income and GDP, Mukesh Ambani should be the prime minister. Then the finance ministry will have to decide the votes instead of the election commission," he ridiculed.

A 25-year-old man died on the spot and a 15-year-old girl sustained injuries after a speeding car rammed into their two-wheeler at Pillagulla Halli in KGF. The deceased Naveen was a resident of Gudiyatham of neighbouring Tamil Nadu. Naveen was returning to Pitchahalli to drop his niece, who had visited Gudiyatham for her summer vacation

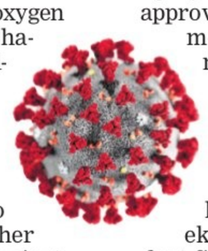
5 YRS AFTER OXYGEN TRAGEDY, HOPE BACK FOR VICTIMS' FAMILIES

CM will distribute appointment orders to over 25 eligible members tomorrow

KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

NEARLY five years after a night of helplessness that came to define one of the darkest pandemic chapters in the country, hope is finally knocking on the doors of families who lost their loved ones in the Chamarajanagar oxygen tragedy.

For Sowmya, the wait has been long, uncertain, and painful. Her husband Doddaiah was like any other father quietly determined to give his children a better future through education. But fate intervened cruelly when he contracted COVID-19 and became one among the 35 victims who died gasping for oxygen that fateful night in Chamarajanagar. What followed was a relentless struggle. Left to fend for her family, Sowmya spent the last five years taking up odd jobs just to ensure two meals a day and keep her children in school. Against all odds, she held on.



Today, her perseverance stands vindicated as her son Shashank, now in the final year of his engineering, is set to receive a government job. This is not an isolated story. Across Chamarajanagar district, families who endured similar loss and hardship are now on the brink of long-awaited relief. On April 21, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to distribute official government appointment orders to over 25 eligible members of such bereaved families at a special event in Gundlupet.

This marks the first phase of the government's commitment, with 25 beneficiaries identified based on qualifications and eligibility. Many of them will be appointed to roles at the Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS), offering not just employment but also the dignity of working within their home district.

For many families, the memories of that tragic night remain raw. The trauma of watching loved ones struggle for breath without oxygen continues to haunt them. Yet, this gesture based on the report of the committee that probed the tragedy and following cabinet approval by the state government, it is being seen as more than just employment but as an answer of accountability, and a step towards healing.

"Only god knows how we struggled to eke out living over the last five years. With the demise of the only earning member, we had lost all hope. My son had to quit his degree for one year. I did all odd jobs and finally our demands are seeing the light. My son will be receiving the work order for the group-D post at CIMS," said Sowmya.

Most of them have got group-D posts based on their qualification while a few have received driver posts. During his visit to Gundlupet taluk in Chamarajanagar during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had personally met the grieving families, offering condolences and assurance.

HERITAGE CARE

The statue of social reformer Basavanna at Chalukya Circle being cleaned on the eve of Basava Jayanti in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Doc absconding in Class 10 sexual assault abortion case; teacher held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chitradurga

EVEN though a week has passed, the doctor accused in the abortion of a minor girl's fetus remains on the run, and the police have not yet arrested her. Police sources said the doctor is accused number 2 and must also be arrested. "We are searching for her, but she is on the run. We are going to take her into custody shortly," a source added.

According to the complaint, on April 10, a class 10 student accused H O Rajanna, a mathematics teacher at the government school in Bangardevarahatti, Challakere taluk, of sexually assaulting her repeatedly and then forcing her to undergo an abortion at a private hospital.

The victim stated that she was forced to undergo the abortion at a private hospital in Challakere. It is further alleged that the accused took her to Talaku and other places within Challakere city and assaulted her.

He also warned her not to disclose the relationship to anyone. Police later arrested the teacher, H O Rajanna, and produced him before the court, which sent him to judicial custody in a case registered under the POCSO Act. Ever since the teacher's arrest, the doctor has been absconding. District Health Officer Dr Renu Prasad visited the private hospital accused of illegally aborting the 16-year-old girl's pregnancy and has also sealed the hospital.

The District Child Protection Unit Officer, N Rekha, along with her team, visited Bangaradevarahatti and discussed the issue with the girl's parents. Subsequently, a complaint was filed at the Talaku police station against Rajanna and Dr Shankara Lakshmi of Lakshmi Srinivas Nursing Hospital on Somaguddu Road in Challakere city, who allegedly carried out the abortion.

Minor raped in Belthangady, two arrested

ENS @Mangaluru

TWO persons were arrested for allegedly raping a minor on April 16 at Belthangady.

Dharmasthala Police arrested Sumanth (28), a resident of Kudurudyavara, and Navneeth (26), a resident of Gardadi, Belthangady. Sumanth worked as a timber loader, while Navneeth was a construction labourer. Both were known to the victim through a common friend. They allegedly convinced the victim to accompany them to Ermayi Falls in Belthangady, where the assault took place.

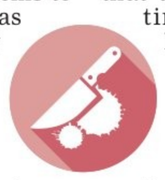
After the victim informed her family, a complaint was filed and a POCSO case was registered under Sections 4 and 6 of the POCSO Act and Sections 64(2)(m) and 65(1) of the BNS, 2023. Under the guidance of Belthangady subdivision DySP Rohini CK and Dharmasthala Circle Inspector Ravi BS, police arrested the accused.

Cops on hunt for Anjuman leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dharwad

FAIROZ MURDER CASE

THE probe into the murder of Youth Congress leader Fairoz Pathan in Dharwad seems to have taken a new turn as the police are now searching for Congress leader Ismail Tamatgar, who is also a leader of Anjuman in Dharwad.



It has come to light that after the murder of Pathan, some audio and video clips were released in which Ismail can be heard cautioning Fairoz and his friends by saying that they might face tough times. However, Ismail had clarified that the phone call recording was old and has nothing to do with this incident.

There are rumours that Ismail has flown to some foreign country after he came to know that a lookout notice was issued against him and that the police wants to take him into custody.

Hubballi-Dharwad police commissioner N Shashi Kumar has formed four teams to nab Ismail. The teams on the lookout for Ismail in different states.

A senior police officer said they arrested 12 people and freed some of them after confirming that they have no role, but more arrests will be made in this regard. "We are probing the case to get to the bottom of truth. The case will be investigated from all possible angles", the officer added.

CRIME PATROL

POSTMAN ARRESTED AS DOWRY HARASSMENT, EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR SUSPECTED IN SUICIDE CASE

DAVANAGERE: A woman has allegedly committed suicide after facing dowry harassment from her husband, a postman employed with the postal department. Kavya (27), a resident of Devaraj Urs Extension in Davangere, took her own life. Originally from Mandlur village in Davangere taluk, Kavya had married Manu, a postal department postman from Hodigere in Channagiri taluk, two years ago. The couple lived in a quarters in Devaraj Urs Extension. Police have arrested Manu in connection with the case, which has been registered at the women's police station. It is suspected that Manu was having an immoral relationship with another woman, and allegations of dowry harassment have been made against him by Kavya's family. According to sources, Kavya had reportedly collected evidence regarding the harassment on a pen drive. The police have taken the accused into custody and are continuing their investigation. ENS

Youth pushed from 2nd floor pub in Mysuru, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ MYSURU

A 30-year-old man died on the spot after he was allegedly pushed from the second floor of a pub in Vijayanagar here late on Saturday night following a heated altercation.

The deceased, Nishanth, was a resident of Gokulam in Mysuru. Earlier working at a private company in Bengaluru, he was reportedly unemployed and was searching for a job.

The police said Nishanth had gone to the pub along with two friends. An argument broke out between their group and five others seated at a nearby table. The verbal spat soon escalated, and in a fit of rage, the other group allegedly pushed Nishanth from the second floor of the building.

He sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. Nishanth's friends reportedly fled the scene after the incident.

Vijayanagar police rushed to the spot, shifted the body to the mortuary of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute and registered a case. One suspect has been taken into custody for questioning, while efforts are on to trace the remaining four accused who are absconding.

Nishanth had gone to the pub along with two friends. An argument broke out between their group and five others seated at a nearby table. The verbal spat soon escalated, and in a fit of rage, the other group pushed him —Police

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking),Sankaramangalam,Kollam 691583
Phone : 0476-2651215 to 217, E-Mail :md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2026_KMML_848193_1	Electrification of ARP DCS building
2	2026_KMML_848088_1	Incomer cable laying and associated works
3	2026_KMML_848352_1	AMC for Electric Hoists/Mechanical Hoists for 2026-27
4	2026_KMML_848309_1	Supply of key Bricks

Chavara 20.04.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGCO25521)
No: EEE/PD/AEE(O)/JE(E)/DVG/2026-27/97-99 Date: 13.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL have formulated the following scheme under section 67 of The Electricity act 2003 & the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2) (C), of the said act for information to the public.

1. Name of the work : "Construction of 66kV LILO line with Coyote conductor from existing 66kV-Benkikere-Goppenahalli SC line to proposed 66kV Honnebagi (Vadnal) sub-station for a distance of 0.757kms in Channagiri Taluk, Davanagere District".

2. Approximate length of the New DC Line: 0.757 Kms.
3. Approximate cost: Rs 1741.14 Lakhs.

4. New Line Passing through the following village limit lands & Survey no's : Davanagere District, Channagiri Taluk, Ubrani Hobli, Vaddanahalu Village, Survey no's.124.

KPTCL shall have & exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under part III of the Indian Telegraphs Act 1885(13) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above scheme shall be sent the office of **Executive Engineer (Ele), Projects Division, K.P.T.C.L, Near stadium, Hadadi Road, Davanagere within 30 days** from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL pursuance.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Ele),
Projects Division, KPTCL, Davangere.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/05-2026-27

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) (Inclusive of all Taxes) / Tender Fee (in Rs.) (Non-refundable)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0702/0426_TKC2 RFx 5000001529 (2nd Call) (Two Bid System) for Hiring of Agency for SAP Modernization (S/4HANA Migration), Cybersecure Cloud Hosting, Managed Services & AMS for 5-Year MSETCL on Turnkey basis	Rs.17582.00 / 25,000.00+GST	08.05.2026 18:00 Hrs / 08.05.2026 18.15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-VII)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai Tel. No.: 022-69852711
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp8@mahatransco.in, cgmit@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/
Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in** & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/** . Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.
Sd/- **Executive Engineer (P&C)**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Mrs. Saraswathi Y Amma**, do hereby declare that I am also known as **Mrs. Saraswathi Amma** & **Saraswathiyamma**. I am known by three names viz. **Mrs. Saraswathi Y Amma, Mrs. Saraswathi Amma & Saraswathiyamma**. These names refer to me and me alone.
Mrs. Saraswathi Y Amma,
Wife of Mr. Krishnan Kutty Nair P.,
No. 27, 'Sreenidhi', 1st Main,
1st Cross, Dooravaninagara,
Bengaluru-560016.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am residing at the above address, in 2014 I have purchased a Site bearing Khatha No. 14, Khaneshumari No.11, situated at Herohalli Village, Andrahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-91 in an auction. Since then I am in possession And enjoyment of the said property by paying electricity bill, property tax, etc. On 2-4-2026 at about 5 PM, I had taken the documents pertaining to the said property to stationary shop situated at Agrahara Dasarahalli, Magadi Main Road for Xeroxing and got it Xeroxed. Meanwhile original document pertaining to the said property (Doc. No. 5941/1998-99) is lost. I request you to kindly accept my application and make it convenient for further document.
Thanking you
Sd/- (Rekha D.N.)
Phone No. (8884588865)

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भारत सरकार अंतरिक्ष विभाग भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र तिरुवनंतपुरम
Government of India Department of Space Indian Space Research Organisation VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE Thiruvananthapuram-695 022

विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी-339 दिनांक 20.04.2026
ADVERTISEMENT NO. VSSC-339 DATED 20.04.2026
निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए ऑन-लाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है
INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

पद सं. Position No	पद का नाम Name of Position	अनिवार्य योग्यताएं Essential Qualifications	रिक्तियों की संख्या No. of Vacancies
01/2026	कनिष्ठ अध्येता (जेआरएफ) Junior Research Fellow (JRF)	(a) सभी सेमेस्टरों के औसत के रूप में कुल न्यूनतम 60% अंक या 10 पोइन्ट स्केल या समकक्ष पर 6.5 का सीजीपीए / सीपीआइ वर्गीकरण सहित भौतिकी / अनुप्रयुक्त भौतिकी / इंजीनियरी भौतिकी / अंतरिक्ष भौतिकी / वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान / मौसम विज्ञान ग्रहीय विज्ञान या वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान / अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान / ग्रहीय विज्ञान / अनुप्रयुक्त भौतिकी / इंजीनियरी भौतिकी में एम.एस / एम.ई / एम.टेक M.Sc. Degree in Physics / Applied Physics / Engineering Physics / Space Physics / Atmospheric Science / Meteorology / Planetary Sciences OR M.S / M.E / M.Tech in Atmospheric Science / Space Science / Planetary Science / Applied Physics / Engineering Physics with minimum 60% marks as average of all semesters in aggregate or CGPA / CPI grading of 6.5 on a 10 point scale or equivalent. (b) आवेदकों को निम्नलिखितों में से एक में भी योग्यता प्राप्त होनी चाहिए / Applicants should also have qualified one of the following: 1. नेट-लेक्चरशिप सहित सी एस आइ आर-यूजीसी राष्ट्रीय पात्रता परीक्षा / CSIR-UGC National Eligibility Test, including NET-Lectureship. 2. एमएचआरडी द्वारा आयोजित इंजीनियरी में स्नातक अभिक्षमता परीक्षा (गेट)/ Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) conducted by MHRD. 3. जोइन्ट एन्ट्रन्स स्क्रीनिंग टेस्ट (जेईएसटी) / Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST)	08

विस्तृत विज्ञापन वीएसएससी वेबसाइट **https://www.vssc.gov.in** में दिया जाएगा। उपर्युक्त पदों के लिए आवेदन केवल ऑन-लाइन प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। ऑन-लाइन आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए वेबसाइट **दिनांक 20.04.2026 को 1000 बजे से दिनांक 04.05.2026 को 1700 बजे** तक खुला रहेगा।
Detailed advertisement will be hosted in VSSC website **https://www.vssc.gov.in**. Applications for the above positions will be received on-line only. The website will be open for submission of online application from **1000 hours on 20.04.2026 to 1700 hours on 04.05.2026.**
"सरकार एक ऐसे कार्यबल का प्रयास करती है जो लिंग संतुलन की अभिव्यक्ति करता है तथा महिला अभ्यर्थियों को आवेदन देने हेतु प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है। Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply"

IDFC FIRST Bank
CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031.
Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i). For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

Online Property Survey

S. No.	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(ii) Agreement ID	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) Mortgaged Property Address	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time EMD of Auction	(ix) Date and Time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1.	INR 2591393.05/- Demand Notice dated: 06-Dec-2025	78641305	Manjunath B R, Preethi Manjunath & Manjunath B R C/O Chill Out Hotel	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing No. 93, House List No. 141, BBMP Khata No. 361, Situated At Sai Nagar Layout, Anjanapura Village, Uttarahall Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring East To West: 40 Feet And North To South: 30 Feet, In All Measuring 1200 Square Feet, Bounded On The:- East By: Property Bearing No. 142, West By: Road, North By: Road & South By: Property Bearing No. 140	INR 6000000.00/-	INR 600000.00/-	26-May-2026 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM	25-May-2026 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	19-May-2026 10:00 AM To 4:00 PM	Name- Dhananjaya H S Contact Number- 9686854006 Name- Surendra Kumar Sampath Contact Number- 9962000280

QR Codes of Property Location & Property Images

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Date: 20.04.2026
Place: Karnataka

Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)

Central University of Karnataka Vice-chancellor Battu Satyanarayan has denied the allegation of irregularities in the recruitment process of teaching and non-teaching staff of the CUK. He said recruitment should be done following all norms and in a transparent manner

PLANNED ACTION KEY TO ENERGY TRANSITION: KJ GEORGE

BENGALURU: Karnataka Energy Minister KJ George on Sunday stressed that coordinated and structured efforts, alongside policy and regulation, are crucial for achieving a successful energy transition. Delivering the valedictory address at the international conference "Sustainable Energy, India Agenda 2047," he said the shift from conventional to renewable energy must move beyond intent to implementation. The event was jointly organised by the Commonwealth Legal Education Association and the state Energy Department. George said the conference enabled meaningful engagement between the judiciary, policymakers, regulators and industry, adding that its resolutions would help shape a sustainable energy future. He also credited the guidance of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in bringing stakeholders together. Law Minister HK Patil highlighted the "Bengaluru Declaration" as a catalyst for renewable energy reforms. **ENS**

Karnataka upgrades 585 schools to PM Shri

Move çomes even as state rejects NEP and adopts SEP

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

EVEN as the Karnataka government is upgrading around 700 schools to KPS Magnet schools across the state and has denied implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) in any school, 585 government schools are already in the process of upgrading to PM Shri schools phase-wise in the state. What is even more interesting is that despite the State Government rejecting the NEP orally and forming a committee headed by Prof Sukhadeo Thorat to write a detailed report, NEP is put into practice in all the PM Shri schools.

While it was announced in the 2018-19 Union Budget, the implementation in Karnataka started in 2022. In total, there are 14,500 government schools across India to be upgraded to PM-Shri. Until December 2024, only 478 schools in the state were in the list for upgradation. Recently, another 107 schools were added to the list.

Several states, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal opposed to implementing it where as Karnataka signed an MoU to implement the same. As of late 2025, Rs 546 crore has been approved of which around Rs 230.5 crore has been released by the Centre.

Since this scheme functions on a 60:40 Central-State funding share, primary schools receive Rs 30 to 35 lakh and secondary schools up to Rs 1.3 crore. The schools for the same are selected through transparent challenge method. Various government schools with good strength of students, pass percentage and with Unified District Information System for Education Code (UDISE) Code can apply online for upgradation and funds to develop the school infrastructure and ultimately upgrade to PM Shri School. There is a competition among schools for the selection.

In Karnataka, the upgradation started in 2022 and it is likely to go on till 2027.

Around 25 schools in Bengaluru North, South and Rural are being planned for upgradation to PM Shri, including nine schools in Bengaluru Rural, six schools in Bengaluru North and 10 in Bengaluru South.

Meanwhile, a government school teacher in lower primary school in Belagavi, said, "Government schools that apply for upgradation as PM Shri are allowed to get funds up to Rs 2 crore phase wise for their development. In Karnataka, one of the best PM Shri School is located in Kunnala in Ramdurg in Belagavi district. The teachers in this school have utilised the funds systematically that every classroom has a smart board, a computer lab, science lab, a hi-tech kitchen and all the other equipments required for school. However, when you look at other schools that have also been upgraded to PM Shri, there are no such facilities. Either the money has not been utilised properly by teachers or it hasn't reached them."

Dr Niranjan Aradhya VP, Developmental Educationist, said, "There is no doubt that NEP is being implemented in all the schools and not just PM Shri Schools. The funds that the Centre is providing are supposed to be provided for the schools under Samagra Shikshana Karnataka (SSK). But here is the fix as more funds are being provided under the PM Shri to State Government schools, the SSK programme will be automatically derailed. Even the PM Shri scheme is not implemented properly with those funds provided by the Centre."

Elephant strays into Khanapur, sparks panic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

RESIDENTS of Khanapur's Shivaji Nagar area were left alarmed on Saturday after a wild elephant suddenly entered the urban locality, creating a brief atmosphere of fear and confusion.

The animal was first spotted moving towards residential zones, prompting alert citizens to immediately inform the forest department. Officials acted swiftly, tracking and chasing the elephant away from densely populated areas.

The elephant was later seen wandering near Mayekar Nagar and close to the railway station, further unsettling residents. Upon receiving updates, forest officials, including Additional Conservator of Forest Sunita Nimbargi and Range Forest Officer Shrikant Patil, rushed to the scene with their team. With assistance from locals, they managed to guide the elephant safely away from the city limits.

The animal was eventually driven towards the government horticulture farm in the Shedegali area along the Khanapur - Hemadaga road, and from there, it was directed back into forest territory.

Authorities confirmed that the elephant had entered the department's jurisdiction earlier and was successfully controlled and returned to the forest without harm.

Wild elephant seen moving around at Shivaji Nagar area in Khanapur on Sunday | EXPRESS

FESTIVE SHOPPING

On Akshaya Tritiya, people flock to jewellery stores in Bengaluru on Sunday. Actor Sudharani is at one such store in at Basavanagudi | EXPRESS

CWC probes abuse allegations against seer at mutt; report awaited

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

FOLLOWING a complaint by children alleging abuse and verbal harassment, officials from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) visited the Veerashaiva Panchamasali Gurupeeth in Harihar and questioned Vachanananda Swamiji.

Acting on complaints received by the Davangere Child Welfare Committee, CWC chairperson Manjula Mahesh, along with officials, inspected the mutt and gathered information.

The team, comprising three women staff members, two male officials, and police personnel, examined the premises where the children sleep, study, and carry out daily activities.

They also interacted with the children's close friends and mutt authorities.

During the inspection, officials collected details about the children from the mutt's legal advisor. It was found that records were not being properly maintained, for which the committee pulled up the management.

Legal advisor Prakash Patil told officials, "This is not a hostel but a child care centre. Poor children stay here and attend a government school in nearby Hanagawadi. Parents also stay with them. We have not taken permission to run a hostel, and our intention was to support underprivileged children. If there is any wrongdoing, action can be taken against those responsible."

CWC chairperson Manjula Mahesh said the visit was prompted by complaints from children studying at the mutt. "We inspected where the children stay, study, sleep, and eat, and assessed how they are cared for, especially during illness. Three children have been counselled, and the report is expected by Monday. The nature of the complaint will be clear once the counselling report is received," she said. CWC member Nagaraj Naik said the team has submitted its findings to higher authorities.

"As the matter falls under the Juvenile Justice Act, certain details cannot be disclosed. We have questioned the seer and will further examine drivers and trustees.

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
MS. H G RAJANI MR. M SRINIVAS GOWDA Loan A/c No. 4002020004775 Symbolic Possession Date 17/04/2026	23/01/2026	Rs. 7724041.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :(Entire Property) : All that property converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(N)119/1991-92, Dated 15/02/1992 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, bearing Site Nos.34,. 35 & 36 and presently new BBMP Katha No.115/1/34 measuring East to West: 90 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 3600 Square Feet formed in Sy.No.16/1, situated at Chikkabommasandra Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on : East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Road, South by: Private Property. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : (undivided interest conveyed to the purchaser under this sale Deed) : 615 Sq. Ft. Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : (Apartment conveyed to the purchaser under this Sale Deed) : All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential 2 BHK Apartment / Flat bearing No.201, in the First Floor, BBMP Katha No.1135/34/1/F No.201, BBMP EPID No.2689800686, Apartment known as 'RAJA MELROSE ONE' newly names as 'WHITE HOUSE' built in Schedule 'a' Property and measuring 1248 Sq.Feet of built up area is jointly held between Mrs.Sophie Sivasankar and Mr.Yohan Chandy and proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with one covered car parking bearing No.05, in the Ground Floor, and the apartment is bounded by: East by: Road, West by: Portion of Flat No.102, North by: Raja Melrose One South by: Road.
MS.H G RAJANI MR.M SRINIVAS GOWDA Loan A/c no. 4002020004776 Symbolic Possession Date : 17/04/2026	23/01/2026	Rs. 5215810.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: (Entire Property) : All that property converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(N)119/1991-92, Dated 15/02/1992 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, bearing Site Nos.34,. 35 & 36 and presently new BBMP Katha No.115/1/34 measuring East to West: 90 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 3600 Square Feet formed in Sy.No.16/1, situated at Chikkabommasandra Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on : East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Road, South by: Private Property. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : (undivided interest conveyed to the purchaser under this sale Deed) 615 Sq. Ft. Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : (Apartment conveyed to the purchaser under this Sale Deed) : All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential 2 BHK Apartment / Flat bearing No.001, in the First Floor, BBMP Katha No.1135/34/1/F No.001, BBMP EPID No.8626937929, Apartment known as 'RAJA MELROSE ONE' newly names as 'WHITE HOUSE' built in Schedule 'a' Property and measuring 1248 Sq.Feet of built up area is jointly held between Mrs.Sophie Sivasankar and Mr.Yohan Chandy and proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with one covered car parking bearing No.02, in the Ground Floor, and the apartment is bounded by: East by: Road, West by: Flat No.002, North by: Raja Melrose Two South by: Road.
Mr. Sapthagiri B P Loan A/c No. 411900011506 Symbolic Possession: Date : 17/04/2026	26/09/2023	Rs. 4079028.00	All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land bearing Sy.No. 72/1, measuring 16 Guntas and portion of Sy. No. 72/2, measuring 17 Guntas in all measuring 33 Guntas, presently assigned amalgamated/clubbed BBMP Khata No. Sl.No.1142, Old Sy.No. 72/1, Muncipal No. 1142, converted from agricultural to Non-Agricultural residential purpose, vide the Order dated 21.06.2013, in official Memorandum bearing No. ALN(EBK)SR.110/2012-13, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore. Situated at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Presently Bangalore Eas Taluk, Bangalore and as per the conversion order presently bounded on: East by : Land bearing Sy. No. 73 and 80, West by : Boundary of Kumbena Agrahara North by : Land bearing Sy. No. 81 and 80, South by : Road. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 397 Sq.feet undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Composite Schedule 'A' above. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Flat bearing No. 005, in Ground Floor, measuring 1040 Sq.feet, super built up area containing Two Bed rooms, with RCC Roofing, Vitrified Flooring and Three Track Aluminum windows, together with One Covered Car Parking Space, including proportionate dshare in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase on composite Schedule 'A' Property known as "VIVEK'S SANSKAR" Apartment.
Mr. JINTHESH M J Loan A/c No. 411900015890 Symbolic Possession Date:13/04/2026	21.11.2022	Rs. 41,55,097.00	SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : ITEM NO.1 All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring as extent of 31 (THIRTY ONE) GUNTAS comprised in Sy.No.164/3 of S.Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, (duly converted vide Official memorandum dated: 16.12.2008 bearing No.ALN(AS)SR/54/2008-09, issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District) and bounded on the: East by : Land bearing Sy. No. 164/2 West by : Land bearing Sy. No. 72 North by : Land bearing Sy. No. 164/1 South by : Land bearing Sy. No. 165 . ITEM NO.2 : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring as extent of 25 (TWENTY FIVE) GUNTAS comprised in Sy.No.165/1 of S.Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, (duly converted vide Official memorandum dated: 22.07.2010 nearing No.ALN(ASH)SR/22/2010-11, issued by the District Commissioner, Bangalore District) and bounded on the: East by : Land bearing Sy. No. 172 West by : Land bearing Sy. No. 72 North by : Land bearing Sy. No. 164 South by : Land bearing Sy. No. 165/2. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 0.50% undivided share, right, title and interest in Schedule "A" Property, measuring about 307.00 sq.ft in as undivided state has been sold to the PURCHASER by the Owners/Developer under this deed. SCHEDULE "C" RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT : RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT having E-Katha No.150200102701021063, bearing No.413 situated in Third Floor of the building, measuring about 942 sq.ft of super built up area consisting of One Bed Room with RCC roofing, tiled flooring, moulded doors and aluminium windows including proportionate share in common area such as passages, lobbies, staircase, lifts and other areas of Common use contained in the residential apartment complex knows as "PUSHPAM E TOWN" constructed on the Schedule A Property with one covered car parking space exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the PURCHASER, built according the plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its Order No. CC/526/2013-14, dated.30.10.2013 on single site plan approved by Anekal Planning Authority vide its order No.LAO/34/2013-13, bounded on, East by: Common Corridor, West by: OTS, North by: Apartment No.409, South by: Common Corridor.
MR. ANIRBAN GHOSH MS. UPALI GHOSH Loan A/c No. 410600003311 410600005327 410600003553 Symbolic Possession Date : 18/04/2026	01/02/2025	Rs. 4257270.00	SCHEDULE-A HEREIN BEFORE REFERRED TO : All that piece and parcel of the CONVERTED LAND OF 10 GUNDTAS MEASURING 10890 SFT SITUATED AT Sy.No,39/5, Srigandhadhakaval, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and now coming within the limits of BBMP having BBMP Katha No.713 Sy. No. 39/5, Portion /698 in Jayalaxmamma layout, Srigandhadhakaval, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Patil Property, West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Sanjeevaiah property. SCHEDULE B PROPERTY : Undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule A Property measuring about 307 Sq.ft. in an undivided state has been agreed to be sold to the Purchasers by the Vendor under this agreement. SCHEDULE C RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT Residential Apartment bearing No. F-2, in First Floor measuring about 1090 Sq.ft., of super built up area consisting of 2 Bed Rooms with RCC roofing, vitrified flooring, Main Door Teak Wood, Masonite wood doors and Teak Wood windows including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase contained in nthe residential apartment complex known as " JC Pearl" comprising of Basement floor, Ground Floor,, First Floor, Second Floor, Third Floor and Terrace Floor constructed on the Schedule A Proeprty with one covered car parking space in basement exclusively earmarked for the sole use and enjoyment of the Purchasers inclusive of the proportionate share in the common areas such as passages, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common use.
MR. M METHUN SINGH MR. MANJUNATHA A (GUARANTOR) Loan A/c No. 410600009149 Symbolic Possession Date : 18/04/2026	17/01/2026	Rs. 3807334.00	SCHEDULE : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.8, New Corporation No.11, situated in 1st Cross, Kasturinagar Layout, Magadi Road, Bangalore – 560023 (formerly Site No.8 in converted No. 3 & 4 of Halebridge Muddenahalli, Kasba Hobli, East of Bangalore Mysore Division Road, Corporation Division No.4, Bangalore City) and measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet consisting of Ground 980 sq. Feet and First floor 500 Sq. feet along with all common amenities and bounded on: East by: Property bearing No.8A, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Road.
MR. MOHAMMED ZARRAR KHAN Loan A/c No. 411800006580 Symbolic Possession Date: 18/04/2026	02/08/2025	Rs. 2889009.00	SCHEDULE 'A' HEREUNDER REFERRED TO All the piece and parcel of immovable property being a Vacant Plot now known as and bearing Corporation No.1/3, situated in 1st Cross, Padarayanapura, in Corporation Ward No.43New Ward No.136, Bangalore, PID No.43-119-1/3, within BBMP, Bangalore, bounded on the: East by: Muslim Burial Ground, West by: Private Property (earlier belonged to Mr.Lakshmaiah) North by: Hosahalli Main Road, South by: Cross Road and Private Property Measuring: East to West: 100 Feet and North to South: On the Eastern Side: 187 Feet, on the Western Side 157 Feet, together with all appurtenant advantage, open spaces, marginal space/land, privileges and benefits. Total Area: (1) 100' X 187+157/2 = 100 X 172 = 17,200. Sq. Feet (2) 10' X 30' = 300 Sq. Feet, 17,500 Sq. Feet, As per the schedule of Sale Deed dated 4th September 2003. The total site area of the Schedule 'A' Property is 17,500 Sq.Ft. Out of the said area 1,840 Sq.Ft. has been left for Road widening and balance Site Area is 15,660 Sq.Ft. available for development. Any benefits arising out of the acquisition of the aforesaid portion of land shall be to the Vendors. SCHEDULE 'B' HEREIN BEFORE REFERRED TO Item No.I. : 168.02 Sq.ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in the composite immovable Property bearing Corporation No.1/3, situated in 1st Cross, Padarayanapura, in Corporation Ward NO.43, New Ward No.136, Bangalore, PID No.43-119-1/3, more fully mentioned and described in the Schedule 'A' above. The site area of the item No.I works out to 168.02 Sq.ft. Item No.II. : Apartment No.411 on Fourth Floor having a super built up area of 1084 Sq.Ft. along with one covered car parking space in stilt floor of the said Residential Apartment building known as "SKY HEIGHT CADER" constructed on schedule 'a' Property, which is bearing Corporation No.1/3, situated in 1st Cross, Padarayanapura, in Corporation Ward NO.43, New Ward No.136, Bangalore, PID No.43-119-1/3, with solid blocks, cement plaster, RCC Roofing, vitrified flooring and Aluminum windows together with proportionate share and entitled to all the common amenities and facilities, with rights to pass through all the common passage leading to the road and free egress and ingress at all times along with the owners of the entire enclave.
MR. JOSEPH GEORGE K MS. MANJU K T Loan A/c No. 411800006847 Symbolic Possession Date: 18/04/2026	04/02/2026	Rs. 7173628.00	COMPOSITE SCHEDULE PROPERTY :All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing converted Sy. No.110, converted vide order No.ALN(A)(A)SR/410/2007-08, Converted Sy.No.109/1, converted vide order No. ALN.SR(A)55/2003-04, Sy.No.107/3A and Sy.No.109/1(new No.109/3), converted vide order No.BDS.ALN(A)SR.128/2004-05 SITUATED AT Kammasandra Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, totally measuring 9 acres 2.12 Guntas and bounded as follows: East by: Existing Road, West by: Sy.No.105, 106, 107 & Remaining lands in Sy.No.107/3A, North by: Existing Road, South by: Remaining Lands in Sy.No.109/1. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 507.025 Sq.feet undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule 'A' Property. SCHEDULE 'C' APARTMENT : All that residential Apartment bearing No.803, in 8th Floor, Block-A, of Tower '3' in the project 'MAHENDRA AARNA-5' built in Schedule 'A' Property, presently bearing CMC Khata No.3946/110, 109/1, 109/3, 107/3A/T-03/A/8th F-803, vide Sl No.10016, measuring 1144.75 Sq. Feet carpet area, 1555 sq. feet of super built up area inclusive of 49.50 Sq. Feet of Balcony Area, having 3 BHK inclusive of Proportionate share in common use along with a Covered Car Parking space/s in the Basement level.
MS. RAJASHEKAR ASHWINI Loan A/c No. 411800007219 Symbolic Possession Date: 18/04/2026	06/02/2024	Rs. 4598300.00	COMPOSITE SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.no.11/9 (Old No.11/5), measures 7 ½ Guntas and Sy. No.11/7 (Old No.11/4), measures 9 ½ Guntas plus 1 Gunta Kharab Land, situated at Chikkanayakanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring 17 Guntas plus 1 Gunta Kharab Land (Converted for non-agricultural residential use as per the conversion order No.ALN(AVH)SR 355/2013-14, dated 13/05/2014 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore), E-Khatha No.150200402300420041, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by: Land belongs to Smt.Balamma, West by: Road, North by: Inamathi Land, South by: Land belongs to Ashwath Narayanaswamy. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 468 Sq.ft., undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule 'A' property above. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : Apartment bearing No.403 in Third Floor, measuring Two BHK, Vitrified Flooring, together with one Car Parking area, along with proportionate share in common area such as passages, lobbies and staircase contained in the multi storied building constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property known as "ASR OCTAVE", and bounded on: East by: Flat No.402, West by: Flat No.404, North by: Corridor, North by: Setback Area.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 20.04.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

KARNATAKA/SOUTH

DMK president and TN CM MK Stalin on Sunday released a Chennai-specific manifesto, promising 1,000 minibuses, metro rail expansion by 2028, and a special centre for AI, animation, gaming, and visual effects at an investment of ₹10,000 crore, among others

TVK leader and actor Vijay campaigns in Tiruchy (West) constituency from where he will contest the Assembly elections, on Sunday | MK ASHOK KUMAR

Shah slams DMK over 'nepotism', says Stalin wants to make son CM

Says DMK's corruption will be eradicated if NDA comes to power in Tamil Nadu

P SRINIVASAN @ Erode

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah conducted a road show in Modakurichi Assembly constituency in Erode district on Sunday, during which he accused the Congress and DMK of defeating the Women's Reservation Bill, which 'empowers women', and assured that the BJP would definitely pass the Bill. He also claimed that the DMK's "family politics" in TN is continuing and Stalin wants Udhayanidhi to become the next CM.

Shah said, "In TN, the NDA has formed a winning alliance under the leadership of Edappadi K Palaniswami. When the NDA comes to power here, the DMK's corruption will be eradicated. We will restore law and order, which is in a state of collapse." Shah pledged that the NDA alliance, upon assuming power, would restore TN's glories that the state had lost during the DMK regime.

Further, he said, "Chief Minister MK Stalin's only intention right now is to make his son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, the CM. Initially, M Karunanidhi was the CM. After him, his son Stalin came. After him, Karunanidhi's grandson is going to come. Their continuous family politics has never benefited TN in any way."

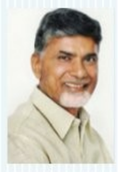
"We introduced the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament with the aim of empowering women in Tamil Nadu. However, the Congress and DMK have blocked our efforts. Excluding the population census, through the constituency delimitation process, we also spearheaded significant efforts to increase TN's parliamentary constituencies by 50%. But the Congress and DMK, with their narrow-minded stance that women should not get more seats, prevented this Bill from being passed. But I will never allow this conspiracy of theirs against women. This Bill will definitely pass," he said.

Earlier, Amit Shah arrived by helicopter at Thamaraipalayam village, located within the Modakurichi constituency, from Coimbatore. A helipad had been prepared for this purpose on the grounds of a private school there. Then, from there, he reached Sivagiri village by car. After that, he participated in a road show that took place for about 700m from near the government hospital to the statue of Dheeran Chinnamalai near the bus stand. A large crowd of cadre gathered on both sides of the road to welcome him by showering flowers.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah campaigns for BJP's Mylapore candidate Tamilisai Soundararajan in Chennai on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Naidu to campaign for NDA in TN

VIJAYAWADA: In a significant push ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP supremo **N Chandrababu Naidu** will undertake a two-day campaign across TN as part of the NDA's intensified outreach beginning April 20.



On April 20, Naidu will leave Amaravati in the morning and reach Coimbatore, where will address a public meeting. He will then travel to Hosur and proceed to Thalli, joining an election rally. Later, Naidu will reach Chennai and participate in a roadshow at Avadi. He will stay overnight in Chennai before resuming his campaign the next day. On April 21, Naidu will depart Chennai in the morning and reach Madurai. He will hold a meeting with leaders of various social groups in Sattur near Madurai.

Modi violated MCC in Hosur campaign: Stalin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Krishnagiri

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi has violated the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during his Saturday night address to the nation, said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin during an election campaign at Hosur in Krishnagiri district on Sunday evening.

Addressing the gathering, Stalin said that, " On Saturday night, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his speech, criticised opposition parties with a national flag in the background in a government event, this is a violation of the Model Code of Conduct and such speeches should have made as part of election campaigns. The defeat of the delimitation Bill has made Modi anxious. His speech did not reflect his position as the Prime Minister, but as a BJP leader."

"The BJP has already started communal riots in Thanjavur and Madurai. It is a destructive forces. Once it enters TN, the Hindi language will be imposed, communal riots will increase and the state will face the same fare as other BJP-rules states. On the other hand, the DMK is protecting Tamil Nadu. This election is a war is between Tamil Nadu and the NDA alliance. The DMK alliance will win over 200 seats in Tamil Nadu polls," Stalin added.

NDA govt to allow Karthigai deepam in hill: Rajnath Singh

ENS @ Tirunelveli/Tenkasi

UNION Defence Minister and senior BJP leader Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the National Democratic Alliance, when it forms a government in Tamil Nadu, would permit the lighting of karthigai deepam in Thiruparankundram Hill. The minister was campaigning in Radhapuram (Tirunelveli district) and Vasudevanallur (Tenkasi district) for BJP candidates SP Balakrishnan and Ananthan Ayyasamy, respectively.

While holding a roadshow in Panagudi in Radhapuram, Rajnath Singh claimed that several ministers in the DMK are facing corruption charges, and the party should be ousted from power. He alleged that, during the DMK regime, the law and order situation in TN deteriorated and the looting of mineral resources was rampant.

The Union minister recalled Dy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks against the sanatana dharma and accused the Dravidian major of crushing the beliefs of Hindus. Reiterating the NDA's promise to light the deepam atop the hill, Singh said the DMK arrested those who attempted to light the karthigai deepam, even after the High Court had passed an order on the same.

Siddu, camp rejuvenate to prove he is not helpless

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is trying to play down the narrative that he became helpless after the Davanagere South bypoll controversy as his loyalists stepped in to control the damage.

On Sunday, his confidant and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi called on him at his residence. Satish is of the opinion that disciplinary action against MLC Abdul Jabbar was hasty as no notice was served on him before suspending him from the party on charges of anti-party activities during bypoll campaigning.

After meeting Siddaramaiah, Satish met Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara at the latter's residence, where Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and former MLC M C Venugopal too were present. They said to have discussed the strategy to counter the camp belonging to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, which could intensify its demand for the CM post after results for the bypolls and five states on May 4, sources said.

"Siddaramaiah was not helpless. But sometimes, in the interest of the party and government, one should compromise over certain issues," Jarkiholi told reporters. The cabinet reshuffle should happen soon as MLAs too are demanding it, he added.

Industries Minister MB Patil too asserted that Siddaramaiah was not helpless.

The Siddaramaiah camp believes that election results will have no bearing on his post, as the high command cannot risk removing him as he is the only face from backward classes for the party.

But some felt that repeated intervention of Siddaramaiah's MLC-son Dr Yathindra on various issues including the change in leadership is denting his father's image. That was the reason some Siddaramaiah loyalists had distanced themselves for sometime, it's said.

On Sunday, Shivakumar was visiting Mukti Mandir near Lakshmeshwar in Gadag district. He said, "I know the power of this place", while reacting to a question on his getting the chief minister's post. He, however, hinted that he could get the post, saying time will answer all questions.

Mukti Mandir is a Shiva temple 12 km from Lakshmeshwar town. It is famous for thousands of shiva lingas.

As per Mukti Mandir sources, DCM's office informed them about the visit on Saturday night. The DCM said he will write a book and mention all the details to inform society.

SUMMER PLAYTIME

As temperatures rise, a man buys a kiddie pool from a street vendor in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

Officer from K'taka is secy in Rajya Sabha

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

KS Somashekar, the first-ever officer to become secretary in the Rajya Sabha secretariat from Karnataka, said it is a responsible job and he is grateful for the big opportunity. He told *The New Indian Express* he will not forget H Hanumanthappa who guided him to take up the secretariat examination, and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda for his support in his career.

Somashekar, from the tiny mango growing village of Neelaturu in Srinivasapura taluk of Kolar district, studied in the government school of Ronuru and got his degree from the government college in Kolar. Somashekar took up Phd at Kuvempu University, working on a comparative study of farmers' plight, and did his MPhil and MA (Literature) and served as guest lecturer in Chintamani. He later took up the secretarial examination and joined service, serving in various capacities including Deputy Resident Commissioner, Karnataka Bhavan, New Delhi, Joint Director (Administration), Department of Information and Technology, and also as officer on special duty (OSD) to the deputy CM of Karnataka in 2018-19.

Somashekar said though he knows English, Hindi, Telugu and Tamil, his loyalty remains to his mother tongue Kannada. He said he would work hard for the satisfaction of the Rajya Sabha chairperson. Post retirement, he wants to settle in his native village and get involved in various activities, including teaching the younger generation, just as his father, a retired government teacher did, and concentrate on agricultural activities. Somashekar's wife is a Railway official, his daughter is studying medicine and son has taken up law, he said.

6-MONTH DEADLINE

Revanth meets guv, seeks nomination of Azhar as MLC

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY @ Hyderabad

IN the wake of the deadlock over the nomination of two MLCs under the Governor's quota, Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy on Sunday urged Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla to clear the names of Prof M Kodandaram and minister Mohammed Azharuddin for their nomination to the Council.

On Sunday, accompanied by minister D Sridhar Babu and MP Vem Narender Reddy, the CM met the Governor at Lok Bhavan. Sources said, Revanth briefed the Governor on the urgency of nominating Azharuddin pointing out that the Minister for Minorities must become a member of either the Assembly or the Council by April-end to continue in the Cabinet, as he is currently not a member of either House. As per the Constitution, a person must get elected to either of the legislative bodies within six months of being inducted into the Cabinet.

Azharuddin will complete his six-month term by April-end, and if he fails to become a member of the Council or Assembly, he will have to resign from the ministry.

Regarding Kodandaram, sources said the CM told the Governor that the former Osmania University professor had led the Telangana statehood movement and is an eminent personality in the state.

15,000 COMPLAINTS, SEVEN SUICIDES IN 3 YEARS LINKED TO LOAN APPS IN KERALA

SHAN A S @T'Puram

THE death of BDS student Nithin Raj has shone the spotlight on illegal loan apps, specifically how they extort victims using personal data accessed from the latter's devices. Nithin, a first-year BDS student of Kannur Dental College, Anjarakandy, ended his life on April 10. A probe revealed he had borrowed money from a predatory loan app and, a day before his death, received threat calls from the app's operators.

As per the police data, around 15,000 people from Kerala lodged petitions against illegal loan apps via the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) in the past three years. However, only 284 complainants chose to go ahead with their pleas and get FIRs registered.

More worryingly, police sources said they were able to link at least seven suicides in the last three years to loan app scams.

A whopping ₹70 crore was lost during the three-year period and only ₹28 crore, or 40% of the amount, could be retrieved. Arrests were made in some, including in Nithin's case, while the investigation is continuing on the other complaints.

Cyber cops said the scammers mostly targeted those working in informal sectors and having low income. Around 32% of the loan app scam victims were those employed with private firms, while homemakers followed at 20.18%. Around 9.79% of the victims were businessmen who have to maintain cash flow to stay afloat. Around 4.37% were students. "Those downloading loan apps from APK (Android Package Kit) files were found to be more vulnerable. By allowing the loan apps access to private documents, including contacts and photos, borrowers put their reputation as collateral. Even those who downloaded the app and deleted it without borrowing money are getting threat calls as their data has already been siphoned," said a senior police official.

The loan apps decide the ceiling of loan amount on the basis of the extent of access they get to the borrower's personal data. The cop said victims are forced to pay an exorbitant amount to close the loan. "If they fail, they are subjected to severe cyber bullying. Morphed images and videos of victims are made and threat calls, from both foreign and virtual numbers, placed to persons in their contact list," said the officer, adding that the app operators receive money via mule accounts.This year, the Chakkarakkal police in Kannur had identified a Noida-based call centre that ran a similar loan app scam and employed 40 people. Three people were arrested.

Joshi takes on Congress over Women's Bill, says it wants family politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

CRITICISING the Opposition parties for the failure of the Women's Reservation Bill, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs **Pralhad Joshi** said on Sunday that the Congress wants 'family politics' and not the weaker sections of society.

"By sabotaging the women's reservation bill in the Lok Sabha, the Congress and the INDI alliance have betrayed the women of the country," Joshi told reporters.

Joshi also said the BJP had always given more representation to women. However, upon being asked about the lower share of female ministers in the Union cabinet, he said that more ministers will come up with reservations, thereby increasing the participation of women.

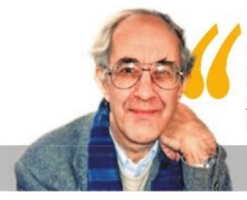
"Initially, they tried to spread rumours that the seats of South India would be reduced through the bill, and thereby mislead the people of the South. We clarified this, but still they continued this misinformation campaign," he said. Had the bill been passed, Joshi added, the representation of southern states would have increased from 23.76% to nearly 24%.

Slamming the Congress for this 'backstabbing move', Joshi said that the party had historically had the same 'anti-women reservation stand'.

A win for INDIA bloc, defeat for NDA govt: DKS

BENGALURU: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief DK Shivakumar said that the defeat of "hastily" introduced Constitutional Amendment Bill was a humiliation for the BJP government in the Centre and a victory for the INDIA bloc. "This is a great victory for the struggles of Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and all the CMs of South India who protested against delimitation. It is a victory for democracy. The Congress party and the INDIA bloc stand in support of women."

EDITORIAL



Much violence is based on the illusion that life is a property to be defended and not to be shared — Henri Nouwen

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

Q4 RESULTS STAY MUTED, FY27 CLOUDS GATHER AS WAR FUELS UNCERTAINTY

THE Q4 earnings season has just begun, but initial results from frontrunners like TCS and Wipro failed to cheer markets. In any case, expectations are subdued not just for the IT sector but also for overall corporate sector performance, due to the deepening Iran war. Luckily, the March quarter earnings may not be as bad, coming off a high base, but as tensions in West Asia continue to disrupt global shipping routes, causing second-order effects, volatile crude oil prices and a weakening rupee, markets are preparing for any eventuality in FY27. That's because the lagged effects of the geopolitical tensions that escalated in March may only become evident in the coming quarters. Even if Q4 turns in a better-than-expected performance, fears have gripped markets over the long-term damage the war-torn trade infrastructure can unleash.

As for sectoral impact, the IT sector's earnings outlook was not rosy even before the war began, due to the adoption of artificial intelligence, which was disrupting traditional business models. Owing to resilient demand, India's FMCG sector was on the road to recovery, though the current quarter may face downside risks from rising fuel prices, supply disruptions, and currency depreciation. Likewise, the auto sector, which reported strong topline growth in Q3, may deliver decent numbers in Q4 as well, but FY27 may not be as promising due to elevated input costs, such as aluminium and other base metals. Banking sector performance too is likely to be mixed, not just in Q4, but also in the coming quarters. Even though credit growth remains healthy, weakening asset quality, slippages, and the RBI's recent foreign-exchange measures, which are constraining banks' other income, may weigh on overall performance. Among all, the pharma sector may deliver better results, though pricing pressures may offset steady growth.

In summary, the January-March quarter was unusual, given two months of relatively benign conditions, followed by a violent March that saw the sudden escalation of the Iran war. It's possible that companies may report stable or even strong numbers in Q4, though it may or may not hold the same for Q1 of FY27 as the March and June quarters represent two opposite earnings environment—one led by stable input costs and steady demand, and the other stiffled by rising prices, supply shortages, weakening demand and above all volatility and heightened uncertainty.

TOO RUSHED TO REFORM, TRUST NEEDS MORE TIME

THE Supreme Court's last-minute order allowing some voters cleared by appellate tribunals to be added to West Bengal's rolls just before polling highlights a simple point: inclusion must guide the process. Had this step come earlier, the scramble now facing tribunals and officials could have been avoided. Updating electoral rolls is a routine task—removing deceased, duplicate and fraudulent entries while ensuring genuine voters are listed. It has become contentious largely because the process has failed to build public and political confidence.

The voter list is not a battleground; it is the foundation of sovereignty. A special intensive revision is not, by itself, a cause for alarm. But when voting is a basic right, even short-term exclusion raises serious concerns. Courts can provide safeguards, but the system must work to include, not exclude, and it must explain its actions clearly. The same strain is visible in recent debates on delimitation and the women's reservation law. Both affect political representation and both demand careful handling. Delimitation will reshape the number and distribution of seats. Without open dialogue with states—especially in the South—questions about fairness will deepen. Representation cannot be reduced to numbers alone; any plan must rest on consultation, data sharing and trust.

On women's reservation, there is broad consensus. But the government's hurried special session, the push for quick passage, and the decision to link the quota law to delimitation without sufficient clarity exposed a gap between intent and preparedness. Expanding women's representation will also require political parties to rethink candidate selection and sitting male members to give up seats. That kind of shift cannot be rushed; it needs time and negotiation. Across these issues, the difficulty lies less in intent than in execution. Too much has been attempted in too little time, with too little conversation. Governance cannot rely on last-minute fixes or court intervention. It depends on planning, transparency, and sustained dialogue with states and the opposition. Constitutional changes, in particular, work best when shaped through wider agreement.

India's democracy is strong, but its credibility rests on everyday fairness—clean voter lists, balanced representation and inclusive laws. Treated as partisan contests, these weaken trust. Handled as shared national responsibilities, they strengthen institutions. The task ahead is straightforward: slow the pace, widen consultation and keep the citizen at the centre of every reform.

QUICK TAKE

POLLS GO BOT

AI chatbots have flummoxed Brazil's top electoral court, TSE, six months before their presidential election. Thousands of users are prompting bots to name the best or most winnable candidate. The court has barred chatbots from offering opinions, yet tests show the ban's not working. The concern is clear: in a hyper-connected country, such outputs could muddy campaigns and deepen polarisation. Brazil is not alone. One in ten Dutch voters relied on such tools during the 2025 elections. The TSE, however, has no clear path to enforce its own rule. Platforms respond with stock lines that their bots do not favour candidates. A wake-up call for India when such prompts flood Grok one day.

Oil volatility, sanctions and the West Asia conflict are reshaping energy flows—reviving past shock cycles and heightening market uncertainty with rising stagflation risks

GULF CHOKEPOINT AND SHIFTING ENERGY ORDER

RANJAN TANDON
Senior markets specialist and author

MANDAR PARDIKAR

FINANCIAL markets staged a cautious relief rally as oil prices retreated from recent highs. Perception and reality alternate to reflect the temperament amid high volatility. The shuttering at the Strait of Hormuz was always plausible as Iran's defensive salvo and was forecast to precipitate a deeper crisis than that of the 1970s. An incessant global energy insecurity, resting on a shaky and contentious opening of the passage, could set the stage for stagflation.

A flashback to December 17, 2010 in Tunisia, a North African nation, a short distance across the Mediterranean from Europe. Police harassment and humiliation of a street vendor outside the governor's office in the town of Sidi Bouzid led him to self-immolate. His death in January 2011 was the beginning of the Arab Spring. The initial pro-democracy protests in Tunisia reverberated through Egypt, Syria, Morocco, Algeria and other parts of North Africa. Social violence and civil wars erupted in Libya and Yemen, resulting in major production outages. The oil price flare cast a shadow of uncertainty and financial insecurity over global economies for the next three years.

At a formal meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries members in June 2011, Iran, under sanctions on its oil, dissented from increasing the group's production. Saudi Arabia, at the time, unilaterally decided to increase its output by 1 million barrels per day to make up for the loss of Libyan light crude and stabilise the market, as the UAE also released more oil to ease prices.

Oil lingered above $100 for the next three years, as Brent averaged around $108 in 2013. Global supplies flowed unhindered, and by the end of 2014, prices declined almost 50 percent, touching $62, as US Shale production surged.

In sharp contrast, restraints at the strait, impeding the Gulf's oil and gas transit, shall permanently reset global energy and politico-economic equations.

Conveniently interpreting the recent protests in the Islamic Republic as a replay of the mood of the populace at the time of the Arab Spring, the US-Israel duo saw enough ground to defend "freedom for the people" of Iran. Resting on the rhetoric of regime change, they sought to primarily derail Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Unfortunately, the military action may have succeeded in isolating the West from the Iranian masses, who are confounded by Donald Trump's "help is on its way" call, followed by death and devastation inflicted by the US-Israel bombing in the midst of negotiations.

The Islamic Republic derives around 60 percent of its budget revenue from oil and gas. Though employment in the oil sector, direct and indirect, is estimated at around 4 percent of the working force, the industrial and mining sectors provide jobs to 35 percent, as per 2023 World Bank estimates.

The war has resulted in extensive damage to Iran's energy, industrial and civilian infrastructure. Hits at the South Pars and Mahshahr petrochemical hubs damaged facilities responsible for 85 percent of the Republic's petrochemical exports. A prolonged conflict shall dent trade relations with its neighbours and constrict long-term business opportunities for the ailing economy.

A vast portion of its population lives in dire financial hardship and an estimated 55 percent of retirees do not receive any pension. As the senselessly inflicted war scales down subsidised State welfare, it shall whip up emotions of retribution for the West. The image of misplaced trust shall thus flip the 'survival' card and resurrect populist support for the nuclear programme.

Shadow fleets are reported to have conveyed around 1.1 to 1.5 million bpd of Iranian oil through the strait in March, mostly destined for China. Though resting on a fragile and obscure system, it has thus far prevented a sharp supply shock and substantially filled Iran's coffers. Partially compensating for its sea-bound supply loss at the strait, Saudi Aramco's East-West Pipeline (built during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war) facilitates the movement of 7 million bpd of oil from the Kingdom's Eastern Province (hosting the world's largest conventional oil fields) to the Yanbu port on the Red Sea. Coupled with an uptick in the UAE's exports from Fujairah, prices remain critically reined in despite a continued shortfall of around 12 million bpd, as per estimates.

Tehran targeted Gulf oil facilities to impair oil-centric US investments in the region, affecting energy markets and impacting financial markets. The damages could be long-term. Confidence in the US as a security provider has considerably diminished among Gulf states. Yet it is unlikely that Gulf oil money would be directed elsewhere, as America's involvement in the former's defence and energy sectors could continue despite the geopolitical faux pas. Though the sovereign wealth funds have performed well in the first quarter of the year, a prolonged war and a crippled waterway at Hormuz shall deplete revenues. Gulf sovereign funds seeking conduit into US financial markets could thus contract, triggering incipient recession and slackening US industrial growth, as artificial intelligence is showcased as the next fiscal redeemer.

As Iran seeks war reparations for the US-Israeli inflicted catastrophe, the pursuit of joint ventures in Iran's ageing oil and petrochemical infrastructure offers a fair incentive. Though China remains invested in Iran's energy sector under its 2021 Iran-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for 25 years, the US could initiate a re-entry after the 1979 exit. A tactical removal of America's naval blockade at Iran's ports—on a subtle note to facilitate China's energy needs—could warm up an overdue Sino-US summit in Beijing. After all, China National Offshore Oil Corporation is active in Guyana alongside ExxonMobil. China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and Exxon pursue a similar partnership in Mozambique and in the Tengiz and Kashagan fields in Kazakhstan. Chevron and CNPC jointly own the Singapore Refining Company.

Peace and development pivot around intent, trust and meaningful dialogue. The Islamic Republic needs to prioritise the removal of trade barriers and sanctions that have held up its development for many decades, and to encourage socio-economic transparency. America must adopt a pragmatic foreign trade stance grounded in the ethos of laissez-faire to assuage its dented image. A calibrated mutual de-escalation is imperative to achieve the goals. Actors in the present hostility may well choose to revisit the Geneva retreat, lest irredeemable damage follow.

(Views are personal)

Full article on newindianexpress.com

PHILOSOPHY OF ONENESS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

TOMORROW is Shankara Jayanti, and it is hard to imagine that such a one as Adi Shankara ever walked on this earth. We owe much of the foundation of Indian identity to him, and so it's a joy to revisit his message.

Adi Shankara believed that the individual soul, or *jivatma*, was not separate from but part of the Supersoul, the Paramatma. The journey of human life was therefore the struggle of the *jivatma* to be reunited with Paramatma. Nobody could fight against malignant fate except by working off bad karma. But he also said that only Mahalakshmi has the power to rewrite a person's destiny through her compassion.

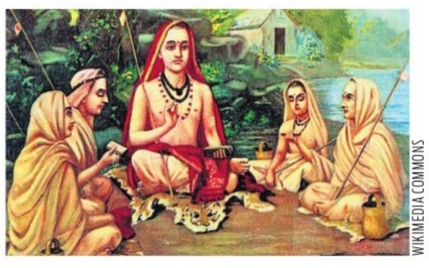
This belief is evident in the famous story of how Shankara, as a very young *bhikshu*, invoked Mahalakshmi on behalf of a wretchedly poor woman. He praised Maahalakshmi in 21 beautiful verses, describing her as the goddess in whom he saw all the goddesses, calling her, among other lovely epithets, "*sarasija nilaye, saroja hastey*", meaning 'seated on a lotus, with a lotus in her hand'. This vision links with our earliest known book, the *Rig Veda*. Mahalakshmi is described as the same in the Sri Suktam part of the *Rig Veda Samhita*, a collection of mantras and *shlokas*.

Shankara sang, "Let her garland of glances that protect Lord Vishnu fall on me as well... Gracious goddess, giver of love, giver of joy, giver of wealth, giver of the right to rule kingdoms, be merciful as the cool breeze. Shower a rain of wealth on this parched land."

The legend goes that a shower of golden gooseberries fell into the poor woman's hut, and Shankara's verses became known as the '*Kanakadhara Sthavam*', or '*Litany of the Shower of Gold*'.

During the post-Shankara period, Indian religion and culture received a rude shock from foreign invasions. In the 14th century, a learned *sanyasi*, Swami Madhava Vidyaranya (1296-1386), decided to protect South India from the foreign invaders operating out of Delhi. He mentored the two brothers, Harihara I and Bukka Raya I, in building a city and establishing a new kingdom. Thus, the Vijayanagar Empire was founded by 1336 and served as a bulwark against marauders from the north for over 300 years. This allowed the South to experience a historical, cultural and socio-economic revival unlike any other region of India at the time.

Vidyaranya Swami was a staunch Advaitin or follower of Adi Shankara's Advaita philosophy. With this background, he would most certainly have prayed to Mahalakshmi, along with Harihara I and Bukka Raya I, from the '*Kanakadhara Sthavam*'. Especially the verse 'Gracious goddess, giver of the right to rule kingdoms' evokes her compassion and grace for his just and worthy cause. Having fulfilled his duty to the state, he retired from active politics to become the Shankaracharya of Sringeri, the first institution founded by Adi Shankara. It is our good fortune that he did so because we inherited his fabulous commentaries on the 'real' and 'unreal' in his masterwork, *Panchadashi*.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> Adi Shankara's lasting belief of life being a struggle of the individual soul to be reunited with the Supersoul inspires many into the path of faith, love and charity. He also reminded us that our philosophy upholds that oneness with God is best expressed as oneness with the children of God

Like a true Advaitin, Vidyaranya Swami upholds the doctrine of the individual soul and Supersoul. He sees each one of us as containing a part of God because he avers, as Shankara did, that it is our genuine soul connection: whatever outward body we happen to be encased in, the soul within us is a part of the Supersoul. Other schools of thought may find this shocking—how can there be no difference between the Almighty and mere mortals? But the purpose of this philosophy springs from deep compassion: to save humanity from suffering by highlighting our capacity to be worthy children of God, literally a part of God.

Another famous story about Adi Shankara is that, on his way to the Ganga for a bath, his path was blocked by an 'outcaste' Chandal, accompanied by four dogs. "*Dooram gachcha*!" (Go away!) shooed the uber-ascetic's followers. "What shall I move?" asked the Chandal, sweetly; "My body, that is made of the same five elements as yours, or the Immortal Soul that abides in me, as in you?" Hindus love to believe that this was Lord Shiva, with the four Vedas, come to bear witness to his lila, or divine sport, to humble Shankara and teach him the truth. Shankara, being gifted with yogic insight, saw through the disguise, fell at Lord Shiva's feet and composed the '*Manisha Panchakam*' in response.

Shankara reminded us that our philosophy upholds that oneness with God is best expressed as oneness with the children of God. The Isha Upanishad asks, '*Yastu sarvaani bhootani aatmaani evaanupashyati sarvabhooteshuchaatmaanam tatho navijugupsate*?' meaning, 'If one sees all beings in oneself and oneself in all beings, how can one feel revulsion for the other?' Another clue to Shankara's loving outlook is that he felt deeply even for Bharata's disgrace and appreciated Kaikeyi's change of heart. We find this in his work, *Sri Rama Bhujangam*. In it, he alludes twice to Bharata as 'Kaikeyi-*nandan*' or 'Kaikeyi's joy', which shows his restorative intention.

What is Shankara's lasting message for us? In *Bhaja Govindam*, he says, '*Geyam Gita nama sahasram dheyam sripati rupamajasram/neyam sajjana sange chittam deyam deena jananya cha vittam*', which translates into, 'Recite the *Bhagavad Gita*, chant the '*Vishnu Sahasranamam*', meditate on Him in your heart and mind/Seek delight in the company of the good, share your wealth with the poor.'

And there you have it, the tripod to support the human experience: faith, love and charity. A message for the ages indeed.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Prioritise preparedness

Ref: *Markets say don't worry* (Apr 19). Markets may appear resilient, but ignoring geopolitical risks is shortsighted. India must strengthen energy security, accelerate renewable adoption and build strategic reserves. Transparent policy and regional cooperation can temper volatility. Practical preparedness, not complacency, will safeguard growth and investor confidence.
M Barathi, Bengaluru

Democracy arithmetic

Ref: *Political payday* (Apr 19). A government with an overwhelming majority often begins to equate numbers with unquestioned authority. But democracy is not a game of arithmetic alone; it rests on debate, dissent and accountability. A strong, articulate and persistent Opposition is of utmost importance for balance.
Noopur Baruah, Tezpur

Civilisational wisdom

Ref: *What Lutyens really thought* (Apr 19). It's time we unknotted ourselves from the continuing shackles of slavery, whether conscious or unconscious. Our country's innate eclectic wisdom and wealth can't be shoved away. Ours is one of the very few oldest civilisations flowing on in the world despite many forced check dams.
U Atreya Sarma, Hyderabad

Women's cause

Ref: *'Oppn will pay'* (Apr 19). The linking of the Women's Reservation Bill with delimitation exposes the hollowness of the government's sincerity towards women's cause. Why can't one-third of the existing seats be reserved and a more equitable delimitation subsequently be considered?
Aysha Haneef, Kottayam

Battle-tested Vaishali

Ref: *Queen's gambit* (Apr 19). Vaishali has emerged as a shining star and a premier force in global chess. Unlike other games in which lucre is the end goal, chess recommends itself to the wise by the fact that its epic battles are fought more for honours than prizes. It's emphatically the philosopher's game.
R Sampath, Chennai

CSK overhaul

Ref: *SRH win* (Apr 19). CSK needs a thorough overhaul of obsolete strategies and players who are not focused in the first place. Sanju Samson is like a flash in the pan and Ayush Mhatre now lacks fitness. The squad should learn from Punjab Kings.
T M Uday Shankar, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj
Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all of you on the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Parashuram Ji, the sixth incarnation of Lord Shri Hari Vishnu.

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Delighted to be Guest of Honour at the @nayi_duniya #MediaForUnity awards for excellence in journalism. Addressed the gathering on the role of a free press.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Whenever the BJP government snatches away someone's livelihood, we will extend our hands in help, even beyond our capacity, every single time.

Says Parliament defeated delimitation, not women quota, bill ● Offers reasons for making reference to Census data

Cong wants 2023 law to be implemented

The women's reservation bill was not defeated, the delimitation, which the govt wanted to thrust on the nation, was defeated... PM Modi is hiding behind the 'women's reservation bill'

Supriya Shrinate

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday sought immediate implementation of the 2023 law passed by Parliament to ensure 33% quota for women on the current strength of Lok Sabha.

Asserting that what was defeated in the Lok Sabha on April 17 was not the women's reservation bill but delimitation, the opposition party urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remove the condition of delimitation linked to set aside seats for women leaders.

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate pointed out that the women's reservation bill was passed unanimously by Parliament on September 21, 2023, and it is part of the Constitution now.

"The women's reservation bill was not defeated, the delimitation, which you (government) wanted to thrust on the nation, was defeated... PM Modi is shedding crocodile tears and hiding behind the women's reservation bill," the Congress leader said.

On the PM's address to the nation over the rejection of the bill, Shrinate reiterated her party's stand that if he was really sincere, he should immediately provide reservation to women within the current strength of the Lok Sabha of 543. "You have put a condition on that. Remove that condition. You are the ones creating hurdles in women's reservation, you want to keep men happy and not reduce their seats," she said.

Referring to Modi apologising to women, Shrinate said the PM owes an apology to the women for what happened to two Manipur women during riots, what happened in Hathras and Unnao, what happened with the women Olympians and how the convicts in Bilkis Bano case were honoured. Shrinate said of the 240 MPs, only 31 are women, which is only 12%. Of the 1,654 legislators across the country, there are only 164 women, which is less than 10%.

'PM owes an apology to women'

Referring to Modi apologising to women, Shrinate said the PM owes an apology to the women for what happened to two Manipur women during riots, what happened in Hathras and Unnao, what happened with the women Olympians.

Centre issues FAQs for clarity on '26 bill

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provides for reservation to women based on delimitation after the Census... If the govt had waited, women would not have been able to benefit in 2029 polls

Centre

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

AMID doubts about the NDA government's intent behind introducing amendments to the women's reservation law and two related pieces of legislation, the Centre on Sunday sought to allay concerns by releasing a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs).

The Centre stated, "The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provides that reservation for women will be implemented based on delimitation after the Census conducted post-2026. If the government had waited for the Census and subsequent delimitation, women would not have been able to benefit from 33% reservation in the 2029 general elections."

On the issue of delimitation linked with the Adhiniyam, the Centre stated: "Delimitation means finalising the boundary of a constituency, essential for implementing women's reservation. The limit on seats in Lok Sabha was set at 550 in 1976. In 1971, the population of India was 54 crore. Today it is 140 crore. It is important to increase seats to 850 in Lok Sabha to enable fair representation in Parliament."

The Centre said no changes were proposed to the Delimitation Commission Act for political advantage. On the rationale behind increasing Lok Sabha seats to 850, the Centre explained that the proposal was based on a proportional expansion approach. "A uniform 50% increase in seats would maintain the proportion for all states and UTs. Applying this principle to the current 543 seats would lead to approximately 815 seats. Therefore, the upper limit on seats was increased from current cap of 550 seats in Lok Sabha to 850 seats," it added.

The Centre said southern or smaller states would not be adversely affected by the new delimitation proposal. With an expanded House, the number of reserved seats for SCs and STs would increase significantly, it clarified.

No adverse effect on South

The Centre said southern or smaller states would not be adversely affected by the new delimitation proposal. With an expanded House, the number of reserved seats for SCs and STs would increase significantly, it further clarified.

INSIDER TRACK

Deepak Kumar's likely Delhi move

Following the recent shift in political power in Bihar from JD(U) leadership to the BJP assuming a more prominent role, indications suggest administrative changes extending beyond the state. Deepak Kumar, former Chief Secretary and long-time aide of Nitish Kumar, is reportedly set to move from Patna to Delhi. Though no official announcement has emerged, political sources hint at a senior advisory role at NITI Aayog. A retired 1984 batch IAS officer, Kumar is known for his wide governance experience. He served as Chief Secretary from June 2018 to 2021 and later as Principal Secretary on contract. His possible move aligns with Nitish Kumar's expanded presence in the national capital and signals continuity ahead for now.

Raj Niwas new secretary buzz

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs' decision to move Varanasi-linked IAS officer Kaushal Raj Sharma to Delhi as Secretary to Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu has stirred bureaucratic circles. Observers see the combination as potentially influential in shaping governance in the national capital. Sandhu is expected to bring diplomatic experience and institutional weight, while Sharma contributes field-level administrative execution and familiarity with complex urban systems. Many officials believe this pairing could rebalance governance away from prolonged populism toward sharper implementation.

Promotee officers flag cadre tagging

A section of promotee officers from the State Police Services and State Administrative Services has raised concerns about a recent change in cadre notation after induction into the All-India Services. Officers promoted to the IPS or IAS say postings now carry bracketed identifiers such as SPS alongside cadre names (like AGMUT, SPS). Earlier, cadre descriptions reflected only the cadre without indicating the source service. Officers argue the revised format creates unnecessary distinction between direct recruits and promotees within the same service. Many have said that once inducted, all officers should be treated uniformly, without legacy labels. Concerns include the impact on perception, seniority dynamics, and parity, prompting calls for clarity and a possible reconsideration of the policy.

Paperless push, paper still rules

Even as the MoRTH tries to move everything online through the Rajmarg Pravesh portal, old habits persist. Many field offices still demand physical files, printed reports, and signed papers. This defeats the whole idea of a smooth, paperless system meant to speed up road project approvals. Officials on the ground seem more comfortable with what they have always done, even if it slows work. The ministry has reacted sharply and issued fresh directions. It has mandated the use of the revamped Rajmarg Pravesh portal and the uploading of all inspection reports only through the mobile application. No parallel paper process will be allowed.

Muted cheers in Bihar power shift

The BJP finally has its own CM in Bihar, but the mood is not fully celebratory. The swearing-in of Samrat Choudhary took place without the presence of top leaders such as Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. This absence has raised concerns within the party. Some leaders feel it signals unresolved tensions with ally JDU. The distribution of key ministries is still stuck, adding to the unease. Only the CM and 2 Deputy CMs took the oath, leaving the cabinet incomplete. Sources say the contentious ministries, which are still being negotiated among the NDA partners, are home, finance, industry and PWD. The leadership change looks significant on paper, but the political picture behind the scenes remains unsettled.

TN-type deadly fire episodes rest on enforcement lacunae

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

Saddened by the tragic fire accident at Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu. My condolences to the families of those deceased and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

THE explosion at a firecracker factory in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district on Sunday, which killed at least 22 people and injured six others, has exposed what officials describe as a systemic regulatory failure.

The blast at the Vanaja Fireworks unit in Kattanarpatti village was so powerful that it was reportedly felt up to 10 kilometres away. Chief Minister MK Stalin called the incident "extremely painful" and sent two ministers to the site.

At the centre of the issue is India's fragmented regulatory framework for hazardous industries. Licensing and inspection of firework factories fall under the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), a body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry based in Nagpur. However, it fails to conduct regular inspections due to severe manpower shortages.

Another key institution, the Directorate General of Fire Services, Civil Defence and Home Guards under the Ministry of Home Affairs, frames fire safety norms and guidelines across the country. However, it has no enforcement powers, leaving compliance entirely to state governments. A senior official noted that the two bodies operate in silos with little coordination or alignment.

PESO, established in 1898, regulates hazardous substances such as explosives, compressed gases, and petroleum products. It issues licences to firecracker units nationwide. However, official data shows a deep enforcement gap. According to the 2023–24 PESO annual report, only 12,299 of 1,36,410 licensed explosive units were inspected—just 9%. Under the Petroleum Act, inspections covered only 5.33% of 2,53,163 premises. Overall, just 6.62% of 3,89,573 licensed hazardous units were inspected, leaving 93% unchecked.

The report attributes this shortfall to "severe resource constraints" and vacant posts. PESO has 137 sanctioned Group A posts and 343 Group B/C posts, but 35 Group A and 111 Group B/C positions remain vacant, meaning roughly one-third of its workforce is unfilled. Despite these limitations, PESO generated ₹301 crore in fees in 2023–24 but spent only ₹57 crore on operations, maintaining a revenue surplus for five consecutive years.

The 2024–25 annual report of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade also noted weak adoption of its licensing system for district authorities. Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Fire Services' advisories remain non-binding, as states are not obligated to enforce them. The result is a disjointed regulatory system.

Two Indian-origin people killed outside gurudwara in Italy at Baisakhi meet

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO Indian-origin nationals hailing from Punjab were shot dead at Covo in the Bergamo province of Italy while leaving a warehouse used as a place of worship during a gathering for the Baisakhi festival.

The deceased, both 48 years old, were identified as Raginder Singh of Covo and Gurmit Singh from Agnadello.

The attack took place on Friday by the alleged assailant who fired at them in the square in front of the Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur on Via Campo Rampino at 11.50 pm in the industrial area of the town and then fled in a white car.

As per local media reports, the authorities later recovered approximately 10 shell casings from the site, indicating the intensity of the shooting. Initial findings have ruled out the possibility of a sudden altercation escalating into violence.

According to an eyewitness, who spoke to local media, the shooter is suspected to be an "Indian" who also frequented the gurdwara, and the bullets also grazed a third person.

The Italian military police (Carabinieri) had launched a full-scale investigation to ascertain the reason behind the killings and to arrest the accused. It has already cordoned off the area. The incident has sent shockwaves through the local Sikh community in Italy.

An official celebration for Baisakhi was planned for Saturday nearby with the participation of local institutions.

More details are awaited as an investigation into the matter is currently under way.

Italian military police probe to ascertain cause

The attack took place on Friday by the alleged assailant who fired at them in the square in front of the Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur on Via Campo Rampino at 11.50 pm in the industrial area of the town and then fled in a white car. The Italian military police had launched an investigation to ascertain the reason behind the shocking incident.

Centre issues rules to end legal tiffs in road projects

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

THE government has stepped up efforts to ensure swift resolution of arbitration and legal disputes pertaining to road development projects, aiming to curb mounting losses to the exchequer caused by prolonged litigation and delayed decision-making. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued five-point directives for settlement of disputes through the pre-conciliation scheme—Vivad se Vishwas III (VsV-III)—and streamline the conduct of arbitration proceedings.

The move comes amidst concerns that inefficiencies and delays in handling legal matters, especially legacy cases, have led to avoidable financial liabilities, including penalties and interest payments.

Central and state agencies involving infra development, such as public work departments (PWDs) and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), have been directed to create an aware Vivad se Vishwas III initiative among the contractors or consultants and discuss the benefits of settlement of disputes under the scheme. The ministry said that small-value cases—claims are up to ₹100 crore and cases up to ₹200 crore decided in the district courts but pending in HCs—might be dealt with on priority.

The Vivad se Vishwas scheme was introduced by the Department of Expenditure of the Ministry of Finance to deal with contractual disputes. The ministry also directed that the pre-conciliation mechanism be actively utilised to facilitate settlement of disputes.

CBI to launch AI verification tool to save people from digital arrest fraud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

IN a first, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is all set to unveil an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot on Monday to deal with digital arrest fraud cases and to help people verify the authenticity of notices reportedly issued to them.

Named 'Abhay', the chatbot will be launched by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant Sharma on the occasion of the 22nd D P Kohli Memorial Lecture organised by the CBI in honour of its founding director, the agency said. The CJI will deliver the lecture on 'Challenges of Cybercrime – Role for Police and Judiciary'. He will also confer 24 medals for meritorious service.

"The AI-powered notice verification chatbot, ABHAY, will allow the public to verify the genuineness of a notice purportedly issued by the CBI. In the context of digital arrest frauds, this provides a much-required tool for the citizens," a CBI spokesperson said.

In a number of cases, it has emerged that scammers posing as CBI officials have coerced the public by showing fraudulent notices purportedly issued by the agency in non-existing cases, holding the victim hostage in the name of digital arrest and extorting crores of rupees in the process, the spokesperson said.

The Supreme Court had recently flagged that ₹54,000 crore was syphoned off by cybercriminals in various scams and termed the menace "robbery or dacoity". Earlier, the apex court had issued directions to strengthen the hands of the CBI in the investigation of digital arrest scams. "The CBI shall have a free hand to investigate the role of bankers under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act wherever they are found involved in the opening of mule accounts used in cybercrime cases," it said.

ABOUT ABHAY

1. Named Abhay, the chatbot will be launched by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant
2. The chatbot will allow the public to verify the genuineness of a notice purportedly issued by the CBI
3. In the context of digital arrest, this provides a much-required tool for the citizens

'Smoking linked to early death in T2D patients'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

SMOKING among people living with type 2 diabetes (T2D) is a major driver of cardiovascular morbidity and premature mortality, claims a recent study published in the Journal of Diabetes in 2026. It said that complete cessation of combustible tobacco should remain the primary goal in T2D management.

Highlighting that smokers have a 37% higher risk of type 2 diabetes, the study said that smoking cessation is a "clinical priority" as evidence shows that former smokers with diabetes have lower risks of mortality and cardiovascular events than current smokers. Speaking with this paper, Prof Anoop Misra, co-author of the article, said, "While discussing other aspects of diabetes and its management, smoking cessation advice is either not given or not stressed strongly in India."

"It should be clearly told to the patients that it can increase the risk of heart attacks and lower limb amputation manifold," said the Chairman of Fortis C-DOC Centre of Excellence for Diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is one of the most pressing non-communicable disease challenges globally.

In 2022, an estimated 828 million adults were living with diabetes, marking an increase of approximately 630 million since 1990. According to the 2023 Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study, an estimated 101 million people in India had diabetes, 136 million individuals suffered from prediabetics and 315 million people lived with hypertension in 2021. The article said that the rapid rise of T2D has corresponded with another long-standing epidemic: combustible tobacco use.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.3 billion people in the world use tobacco, which causes more than seven million deaths each year, most of them in low- and middle-income countries.

CHILD MARRIAGE
A case of child marriage came to light in Beed district in Maharashtra after a girl allegedly suffered miscarriage and rushed to a hospital, prompting the police to register an FIR, an official said on Sunday.

2 MEN FROM GUJARAT HELD WITH CHARAS IN GOA

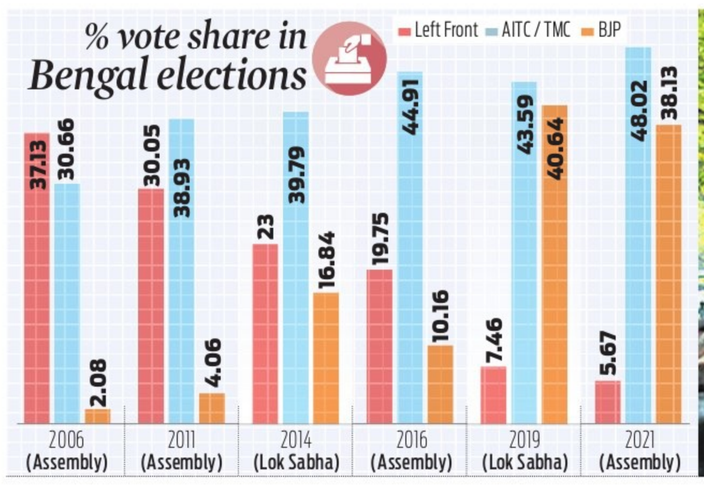
INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	27	Mumbai	34	27
Bhopal	40	22	Panaji	34	26
Jaipur	39	22	Patna	39	23
Amritsar	37	20	Lucknow	40	23
Chennai	35	27	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	30	20
Srinagar	24	09	Chandigarh	38	21

From height of 233 seats in 2006, Left Front is staring at a wipeout and irreversible irrelevance ● Mamata says PM misleading the nation

Left decline continues in Bengal

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

NOT long before the 2026 West Bengal assembly election was announced, a gathering of CPI(M) leaders in the state produced a moment of unusual candour. Ashok Bhattacharjee—five-time MLA from Siliguri, former state minister, and the most recognisable Left face in north Bengal—made a statement in public: that its own voters had started voting for BJP.



From 2006 to 2021

In 2006, the Left won 233 of 294 assembly seats—the largest majority in the state's post-Independence history. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee returned as CM for a second term. Five years later, TMC swept to power. Left's vote share still stood above 30% in 2011. It fell to 19% in 2016, 5% in 2021. Between 2016 and 2019, over one crore voters appear to have shifted from LF to BJP. The informal slogan that crystallised the transfer—'agey Ram, porey Bam' (first Ram, then Left)—was not ideological. It was transactional. Left's vote share collapsed from 23% to 7.5% in that single LS cycle. BJP's shot from 10% to over 40%.

In an interview to Ganashakti before 2019 LS elections, he described BJP's rise as a "danger" and pleaded with Left voters not to make switch.

2018 Panchayat Election Violence as Turning Point

The 2018 Bengal panchayat elections produced some of the worst bloodshed the state had seen in years. Opposition failed to field a candidate in over 34% of seats—TMC secured a third of the seats uncontested. Atleast 25 people had died on the poll day. For Left voters the calculation was bleak and simple. BJP seemed the only formidable force capable of physically standing up to TMC cadre. BJP won Tripura that had been under CPI(M) rule since 1993.

Attempts for Recovery

Left attempted recovery. In 2021, it assembled Sanjukta Morcha—bringing in Congress and Abbas Siddiqui's Indian Secular Front, and filling Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata in a rally. The alliance won one seat, but it was neither INC nor CPI(M); ISF won the seat.

In 2023 panchayat polls, the Congress-Left-ISF combine increased its vote share to 21%. BJP's share, meanwhile, declined to 22%. For 2026, Congress has gone its own way. CPI(ML) Liberation has, however, announced candidates in 10 seats. For the first time, the entire ideological spectrum of the Indian Communist movement may contest a Bengal poll with a degree of coordination.

Presidency: Embers Still Glow

Presidency—encompassing Kolkata and its immediate hinterland—retains the most residual Left energy. Urban, educated, historically given to ideological voting, the division still has constituencies where CPI(M) can expect serious consideration. Former Rajya Sabha MP and ex-Kolkata Mayor Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya contests from Jadavpur. Dipsita Dhar from Dum Dum Uttar. Minakshi Mukherjee, party's nationally recognised young face, contests from Uttarpara.

The Message it Might Carry

The CPI(M) is banking on job creation as its central 2026 plank, deploying a large number of young candidates alongside volunteers to win back youth support. The party is also attempting to position itself as the sole option for voters who are secular, anti-BJP, and disillusioned with TMC's record on corruption.

TMC and Congress joined hands against women's reservation bill, says Modi

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

A couple of days after the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, failed in Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the Trinamool Congress of colluding with Congress in betraying the women by blocking the proposal. Modi was addressing an election rally in Bishnupur of Bankura district, West Bengal.

"We have seen how TMC conspired with Congress to prevent the bill that sought to provide 33% reservation for women in Parliament and assemblies across the country, as it is against women empowerment," the PM said.

"We want the involvement of women in building a developed India and want them to join politics more and more, but at the same time in West Bengal the ruling party betrayed the state's sisters and daughters," the PM said. Modi said the bill sought to implement 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies before the 2029 Lok Sabha polls through a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census. "Trinamool Congress engages in religion-based reservation, breaks every law and every rule to benefit infiltrators but opposes women's empowerment," he alleged.

Countering Modi's allegations, the Trinamool Congress chief claimed, "The PM chose to mislead the nation rather than address it honestly." Hours after the Modi's scathing attack on TMC, the Bengal CM wrote on X, "It is deeply unfortunate that the PM chose to mislead the nation. Let me put this on record. Trinamool Congress has always championed higher political representation for women. We have the highest proportion of female elected representatives in both Parliament and the state legislature. In the Lok Sabha, 37.9% of our elected members are women. In the Rajya Sabha, we have nominated 46% women members. The question of opposing women's reservation does not arise and never has."

"What we are fundamentally opposed to is the delimitation exercise that the Modi government was plotting to push through by using women as a shield for its vested political agenda. It is the altering of Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution, the division of this nation and the usurpation of power, by redrawing political contours to hand greater representation to BJP-ruled states," she wrote.

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI
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Azad's ex-partner set to join hands with Akhilesh

Dr Rohini Ghawari, former girlfriend of Chandrashekhar Azad, chief of the Bhim Army and Nagina MP, is set to take a plunge into UP political landscape. She is already in talks with the Samajwadi Party top leadership. Currently, based in Switzerland, Ghawari plans to return in June and may mobilise non-Jatav Dalits, especially the Valmiki and Pasi communities, in support of the Samajwadi Party. She has plans to hold around 200 meetings across the state, followed by a major rally in Agra or Lucknow with Akhilesh Yadav as the chief guest. Ghawari has been accusing Bhim Army chief of betrayal and exploiting her physically for quite sometime.

Mayawati's 'chameleon' comment at SP, Cong

On the defeat of Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament, BSP chief Mayawati accused the Congress and Samajwadi Party of double standards on matters related to the welfare of SC/STs, OBCs and Muslims saying that the two parties should have accepted the proposals of the Women's Reservation Bill for these communities. She also supported the govt move to base the delimitation exercise on the 2011 Census. Taking to X, Mayawati accused the Congress and SP of changing colours like a chameleon. The BSP chief has welcomed the Women's Reservation Bill but has demanded separate chunks for the reserved category.

Smriti-Akhilesh spar over saas-bahu jibe

Squabbling is on between Smriti Irani and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav as the former challenged Yadav to contest an election from a constituency other than his family stronghold. Smriti's jibe at Yadav came after he referred to her as "saas-bahu wali" in Lok Sabha saying she had lost. Smriti Irani hit back, saying that if Akhilesh had the courage, he should win an election from somewhere other than his ancestral seat and stronghold. She challenged the SP chief to contest elections from Gorakhpur. On Akhilesh's stand on the women's reservation bill, she said that the Constitution did not provide for reservation on the basis of religion.

Didi offers jobs to employees as IPAC stops election work

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

RULING Trinamool Congress in West Bengal suffered a major setback after its political consultancy agency I-PAC on Sunday announced suspension of its operations in the state just four days ahead of the first phase of the assembly elections on April 23.

The I-PAC authorities made the announcement through emails sent to its employees on Saturday midnight.

"In view of certain legal issues, management has decided to pause operations in West Bengal with immediate effect," the email states. "In this backdrop, all employees and team members are requested to take a short leave for a period of 20 days. At the end of this period, by May 11, we will regroup, review the situation and decide next steps," the email read.

Political observers in the city felt that the I-PAC's decision was highly significant for just less than 80 hours before the first phase polls. They said that the TMC's organisational setup completely depends on field-level workers of the I-PAC engaged by Abhishek Banerjee, national general secretary of the party and MP from the Diamond Harbour seat.

I-PAC has been facing legal battles in the Supreme Court since January after the raids carried out separately by the Enforcement Directorate at the residence of its director Prateek Jain and the agency's Salt Lake office on January 8.

Meanwhile, rubbishing the report published in an English daily this morning, TMC called it "false and baseless". "...I-PAC is still attached with Trinamool Congress," the party said.

CM Mamata Banerjee also reacted to the development at a poll rally later in the day. Without naming I-PAC, she said pressure was being put on those working with her party and promised support if jobs were affected. "If the employees of the agency are threatened, they will join us. We will give them jobs. I will not allow even one boy to lose his job," she said.

All districts free from Left extremism, asserts Centre; deadline set for J'khand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Ranchi

THE Centre has officially declared that no district in India remains affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), marking what it describes as a historic milestone in the country's internal security landscape.

The announcement follows a comprehensive security review conducted earlier this month under the National Policy and Action Plan to Address Left-Wing Extremism, introduced in 2015. According to a recent communication issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on April 8 to nine states, a detailed assessment carried out after March 31 concluded that no district in the country now falls under the LWE-affected category.

The review was conducted against the backdrop of a deadline set by the Centre to eliminate LWE by March 31. During the high-level meeting, officials evaluated key indicators such as the operational strength of armed Naxal cadres, their capacity to carry out violent acts, the existence of so-called "liberated zones", and the frequency of incidents in previously affected areas.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had informed Parliament on March 30 that India had effectively become free of Maoism, adding that a formal declaration would follow. The latest communication is seen as the fulfilment of that assurance.

Officials acknowledged that while isolated incidents involving residual Naxal elements continue to occur in parts of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, they do not warrant classification of entire districts as LWE-affected. As part of the revised framework, the MHA has categorised 37 districts across multiple states as "Legacy and Thrust districts", indicating that they are now free of active insurgency but require continued attention. Additionally, one district—West Singhbhum in Jharkhand—has been designated as a "District of Concern.

Meanwhile, CRPF Special DG Deepak Kumar has issued a stern ultimatum to top Maoist leader Misir Besra and his associates, asking them to surrender and return to the mainstream within a month or face decisive action. CRPF Special DG Deepak Kumar visited the security camp in Baliba village, where he interacted with personnel. Talking to the media persons, the special DG informed that West Singhbhum remains the only district in the entire country that is still affected by Maoists. He clarified that the ongoing operation in Saranda is specifically targeting the Maoist leader Besra and his team.

'Legacy & thrust' category

The states covered under the latest communication include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, and West Bengal. Several districts in these states, once considered hotspots of Naxal violence, are now part of the "Legacy and Thrust" category.

Pahalgam sees tourist return sans buzz

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A year after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 tourists and a local ponywala were killed, visitors are returning to the scenic resort but the hub is now quieter with subdued atmosphere. Tourism is reviving but Pahalgam's journey back to its full vibrancy will take more time. Tourists are returning in modest numbers, strolling through the valleys and stopping at scenic viewpoints to capture selfies and videos on their phones. Shops, hotels, eateries, dhabas, and Kashmiri handicraft outlets are open but the usual hustle and bustle has not returned yet.

Latief Ahmad, who runs a Kashmiri arts and crafts showroom, recalls how this time of year meant a steady flow of visitors. "There used to be a beeline of tourists at our showrooms and every visitor would buy something to take home souvenirs," he said. "But after last year's attack, tourist flow has dropped significantly. Our business has been badly affected."

Tourists return to Pahalgam in small numbers a year after the attack | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

Hilal Ahmed, owner of a restaurant, said daily earnings have plummeted. "Before the attack, we would make around ₹35,000 on normal days and up to ₹50,000 on weekends. Now, it's ₹5,000 to ₹8,000 a day," he said. "Most visitors don't stay overnight anymore."

The downturn has forced job cuts in the hospitality sector. According to Pahalgam Hoteliers Association president Javed Burza, several hotels have reduced staff while some have shut operations. "We have cut room tariffs by 50–60% but tourists are still hesitant to stay overnight," Burza said. To revive tourist footfall, authorities have reopened several major attractions.

However, Baisaran Meadows, called mini Switzerland, remains closed. Earnings of ponywalas have dwindled. "Now, a ponywala makes only ₹500–₹600 a day," said Abdul Waheed, president, Pahalgam Ponywala Association.

The tourists visiting the place said they did not face any issues and felt safe in Pahalgam. "Pahalgam is a beautiful. It is safe," a tourist said.

UP medical rep kills twin daughters, wife seeks death sentence; probe on

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

A man allegedly murdered his 11-year-old twin daughters by slitting their throats inside his house and then informed the police himself, early Sunday morning. The accused has been arrested.

According to DCP South Deependra Nath Chaudhary, accused Shashi Ranjan Mishra, a medical representative, lived in Trimurti Apartment in Kidwai Nagar under the Naubasta police station area with his wife Reshma Kshetri and their three children, 11-year-old twin daughters Riddhi and Siddhi, and a 6-year-old son, Gannu.

Around 4:30 am on Sunday, police received a call on the emergency number 112 giving information about the killings. On reaching the flat, the cops found the bodies of both girls lying side by side on the floor. The accused father was sitting next to the bodies and was arrested on the spot. The wife of the accused sought an immediate death penalty for her husband.

CCTVs across the flat

The motive behind the killings is not yet known. As per local sources, the accused had a love marriage in 2014. According to the woman, he used to beat her daily under the influence of alcohol and had CCTV cameras installed across the flat.

The motive behind the killings is not yet known. As per local sources, the accused had a love marriage in 2014 and would his wife daily under the influence of alcohol and had CCTV cameras installed across the flat and would not allow her to enter his room.

He stayed inside with the two daughters, and she could only watch the room's footage on a screen from outside.

Narrating the series of events of Saturday night, Reshma said everything was fine. They had dinner together. Mishra went to sleep with his daughters. He spoke to someone on the phone. Around 2:30 am in the morning, he took one of the daughters to the washroom. Then he took her back to his room and turned the lights off. "After that, I went to the door of his room but there was no movement. I assumed everyone was asleep. After that, I don't know when the murder took place," said Reshma. A probe is on.

MEITEI GROUPS DEMAND CM'S REPLY ON KILLINGS

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

MANIPUR'S apex Naga organisation, the United Naga Council (UNC), on Sunday announced a three-day shutdown of the Naga areas from April 20 midnight to April 23 midnight to mourn Saturday's killings of two Naga individuals and "as a collective expression of condemnation".

The two victims, including a retired Army jawan, were killed in a suspected sniper attack when they were travelling from Imphal to Ukhrul. In a statement, the UNC said a candlelight vigil would be observed on April 23 in all Naga district headquarters and Imphal "to honour the departed souls and to reaffirm our commitment to peace with dignity". "During the three days of mourning, the Nagas in Manipur shall suspend all social and economic ties with the Kukis in accordance with Naga customary practice," the statement said.

Some Naga organisations alleged that "Kuki SoO" (Suspension of Operations) rebels were involved in the killings. Kuki organisations dismissed the allegation.

Meanwhile, as violence continued in Manipur, the influential Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) announced the boycott of the ruling BJP in the state.

The COCOMI, a conglomerate of Imphal Valley-based Meitei civil society organisations, appealed to people not to participate in any activity of the BJP or its leaders, even as it demanded a detailed statement from Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on why his government had not been able to prevent the attacks on civilians.

8 children
between the ages of 1 and 14 killed after a mass shooting in Louisiana, police say

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Russian bombardment kills two as Kyiv strikes major drone factory

KYIV

RUSSIAN strikes killed at least two people in Ukraine, officials said Sunday, as the Ukrainian military struck a drone factory in southwestern Russia. A "massive" nighttime drone strike on Chernihiv in northern Ukraine killed a 16-year-old boy and wounded four others, according to the head of the city's military administration.

Rescuers found the teenager's body as they cleared away rubble, Dmytro Bryzhynskyi reported on Telegram on Sunday morning. He said the drone strike also wounded three women and one man. Several houses were set on fire, he added. Russian drones also attacked the southern city of Kherson on Sunday, local officials reported.

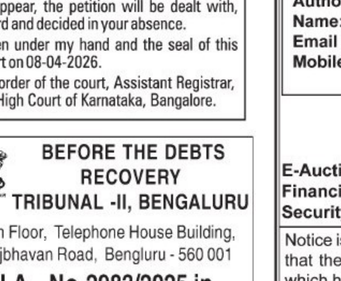
A man died of his wounds after a drone hit a van driving through the city center, according to Oleksandr Prokudin, the head of the regional administration. A second man was hospitalised with blast injuries, regional authorities said. Russia launched 236 drones into Ukrainian territory overnight into Sunday, Ukraine's air force reported. Of those, 203 drones were shot down while 32 hit targets in 18 separate locations, it said.

Meanwhile, Ukraine hit a drone factory in the city of Taganrog, Ukraine's General Staff reported. The site lies some 55 kilometers east of Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine in southwestern Russia. According to the military, Ukrainian drones sparked a fire at the Atlant Aero factory, which designs and produces strike and reconnaissance drones, as well as components for more powerful UAVs that can carry guided bombs weighing up to 250 kilograms.

Ukraine's navy said it carried out the attack on the drone factory in southern Russia, using domestically manufactured Neptune cruise missiles. "This defense enterprise is an important part of the Russian military-industrial complex, where drones were developed and manufactured," the navy said in an online post. *AP*

Zelenskyy hits out at US sanctions relief on Russian oil

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky criticised the easing of sanctions on Russian oil after the US extended a waiver to curb rising energy prices. He said oil revenues fund Moscow's war, citing over 110 tankers carrying crude now able to be sold. Zelensky warned billions would fuel fresh strikes, noting a surge in recent Russian attacks on cities and communities. The waiver, valid until May 16, drew criticism from US Democrats, who called it a reversal that benefits Moscow and strengthens its war effort.



People stand outside a Baptist church damaged by a Russian guided aerial bomb, in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine | AP

Trump warns Iran, sends team to Pak for talks

J D Vance to head US delegation; Don threatens to destroy key Iran infra if no deal reached

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said he was sending a delegation to Pakistan on Monday for negotiations with Iran, while renewing his threats to destroy the country's vital infrastructure if it didn't agree a deal.

"No more Mr nice guy!" the American leader declared on Sunday in a post on his Truth Social account, saying that without a deal, Washington was "going to knock out every single Power Plant, and every single Bridge, in Iran".

US Vice President J D Vance will lead the US delegation for talks with Iran in Pakistan, a White House official said Sunday — shortly after Trump said he would not make the trip.

Early in the day, Trump announced he was sending negotiators to Islamabad for meetings with Tehran about ending the conflict that has raged in the West Asia, with a ceasefire soon set to expire.

Trump said that Vance — who led the last round of talks with Tehran in Islamabad, but came away with no deal — would not make the trip, citing security concerns.

"It's only because of security," Trump told ABC News. "JD's great." But the White House quickly flipped the script, when asked about those comments.

Police inspect vehicles at a security checkpost at Red Zone area in Islamabad | AFP

Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner will attend the talks, a White House official told AFP on condition of anonymity. The trio were on hand last time around on April 11-12.

WAR WATCH

Trump earlier accused Iran of a "Total Violation" of the countries' two-week ceasefire with attacks Saturday in the Strait of Hormuz — and threatened to destroy its power plants and bridges if no deal is reached.

Iran and the United States, along with Israel, are three days away from the end of a two-week ceasefire that halted the West Asia war started by surprise US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

There has so far been only a single, 21-hour negotiating session held in Islamabad on April 11 that ended inconclusively, though groundwork for fresh talks continued afterwards.

"We're offering a very fair and reasonable deal, and I hope they take it," Trump said in his post. No date has yet been announced for a second round of talks, and Iran's speaker of parliament and senior negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf insisted on Saturday night that the two sides were "still far from the final discussion".

Donald Trump justified the war as an attempt to stop Tehran acquiring nuclear weapons — an ambition it has always denied — and the atomic issue remains a key sticking point in negotiations.

Iran and the US had already been discussing Tehran's nuclear programme in Omani-mediated talks when Washington launched the war, which has now added a fresh point of contention — the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint for oil and gas shipments that Iran has ordered closed. *AFP*

Pakistan ramps up security checks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has ramped up security in Islamabad and Rawalpindi despite no official word on a second round of US-Iran talks. Over 10,000 police personnel and hundreds of checkpoints have been deployed. Key areas, including Nur Khan Airbase and Islamabad airport, are sealed, with transport curbs and closures in place. As Islamabad pushes diplomacy and high-level visits loom, with ceasefire nearing April 22 deadline.

Iran to resume international flights

TEHRAN: Iran will resume international flights on Monday from Mashhad airport in the country's northeast, its civil aviation authority said. "Permission to operate international passenger flights at Mashhad Airport has been issued, starting tomorrow," state TV said, quoting the Civil Aviation Organisation. The organisation said travellers can now book international flights to and from Mashhad Airport, IRNA said.

Spain urges to end EU-Israel pact

MADRID: Spain will ask the European Union to end its association agreement with Israel, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said, alleging violations of international law. The 2000 pact governs cooperation and includes a human rights clause.Madrid has criticised Benjamin Netanyahu's government over the Gaza conflict and strikes in Lebanon. Israel hit back, accusing Spain of hypocrisy, with Foreign Minister Gideon Saar citing its ties with Turkey and Venezuela. Spain and Ireland had first called for a review in 2024, after Gaza bombardment, while Madrid's recognition of a Palestinian state further strained ties. Spain, Ireland and Slovenia have urged the EU to discuss the accord at the next meeting of foreign ministers. Netanyahu has also accused Spain of hostility and barred it from a US-led Gaza initiative.

Israel orders 'full force' in Lebanon despite ceasefire

SA NUR

ISRAELI Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Sunday that the military had been instructed to use "full force" in Lebanon — even during the ongoing ceasefire — in case the Israeli troops face any threat.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have instructed the IDF to act with full force, both on the ground and from the air, including during the ceasefire, in order to protect our soldiers in Lebanon from any threat," Katz said at a function in West Bank.

He said that the military had also been ordered to demolish any structure or roads that were "booby-trapped" and threatened soldiers.

The aim is "to remove the houses in the villages near the border that served in every respect as Hezbollah terror outposts and threatened Israeli communities," Katz added. An Israeli soldier was killed in southern Lebanon on Friday — the day a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon came into effect — when he entered a booby-trapped building, the military reported.

Katz has repeatedly said Israel would demolish houses along the border as part of efforts to establish a security zone in southern Lebanon. On Saturday, Israeli forces carried out demolitions in the town of Bint Jbeil, the scene of intense fighting with Hezbollah prior to the recently agreed ceasefire.

"The overarching goal of the campaign in Lebanon is the disarmament of Hezbollah and the removal of threat to northern communities, through a combination of military and diplomatic measures," Katz said.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU [SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE COURT ORDER DATED: 02/04/2026

CMP No. 385/2024

[VIDEO CONFERENCING/PHYSICAL HEARING]

PETITIONER/S: M/S. ROYALOAK INFRASTRUCTURE LLP, REP. BY ITS AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY MR. S. MATHAN

-V/s-

RESPONDENT/s: VALUE B INFRAA AND VALUE B FABTECH PVT. LTD. REP. BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR

To, **VALUE B INFRAA AND VALUE B FABTECH PVT. LTD**, HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT NO. 306/A, 5TH MAIN, 4TH PHASE, PEENYA INDUSTRIAL AREA, BANGALORE - 560058. REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR ... **RESPONDENT/S**

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Section 11(5) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 as in the copy annexed hereunto.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you in this matter on **04-06-2026** at 10:30 A.M in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this court on 08-04-2026.

By order of the court, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bangalore.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, BENGALURU

4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengluru - 560 001

I.A. No.2983/2025 in OA No. 280/2018

Between: Bank of India, J. C. Road Branch. ...Applicant

And

M/s. DEV IT CORP And Another ...Defendants

NOTICE

1.Whereas, the Interlocutory Application has been made to this Tribunal. The Copy of which is enclosed herewith.

2. Take notice that you are hereby required to showcause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **22.05.2026 at 10.30 A. M.** in person or by a pleader / Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

3. Take notice that in case default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **16.04.2026.**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II Bengaluru

To,

1. M/s. Dev IT Corp, No. 104, S. P. Road, Behind Sharada Talkies, Bangalore - 560 002, Represented by its Proprietor Sri Parameshwar N Verma.

2. Sri Parameshwar N. Verma, Residing at Flat No. 203, Premier Gruhalakshmi Apartment, S. M. Road, Jalahalli Cross, Bangalore - 560 015.

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Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (II FL-H FL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) mad with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower dears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. Govinda M V, Miss. Jyothi Matakaiahanadoddi Marappa, **Prospect No. IL10420903**	All That Piece And Parcel Of 8, Matakayyanadoddi Village, Lakshmipura Post, Kutagal Hobli, Yerehalli, Near Govt School, Ramanagara, Karnataka, 562159 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_area, Built_up_area Property Area: 1200.00, 1197.00 Bounded By:North: Govt Pond South: Road East: Property No. 9 West: Property No. 07	₹552465.00/- (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Five Only)	15/09/2025	16/04/2026
Mr. Mokshendrachar Rajendra, Sanathana Vishwakarma Handi Craft, Mrs. Mahalakshmi, **Prospect No. IL10619768**	All That Piece And Parcel Of Sy No. 67, Herohalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_area, Carpet_area, Built_up_area Property Area: 600.00, 382.00, 450.00 Bounded By: North: Road South: Property Belongs To Mallikarjunaiah East: Property Belongs To Dayanandasagar West: Property Belongs To Krishnappa	₹2710276.24/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Ten Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Six and Twenty Four Paise Only)	03/02/2026	16/04/2026

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office :** ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/1st Floor, Manjunatha Sankeerna, BM Road, Ijoor, Ramanagara-562159**or Corporate Office :** IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place : Ramanagara,Bangalore ;
Date : 20-04-2026

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

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STATE BANK OF INDIA

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: Sri. Nagaraja V
Email Id: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 9448441455

Address of the Branch :
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (05173)
 # 11/90, 3rd Floor, Opp. Trustwell Hospital, J C Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Ph : 080-2594 3678, 2594 3663,
Email Id : sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX IV-A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLES PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable asset under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgager, in particular that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **22.05.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 1,02,34,319/-** (Rupees One Crore Two Lakhs Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred and Nineteen only) as on 16.04.2026 and further interest at contractual rate from 17.04.2026 plus with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc which is due to State Bank of India, SARB, Bengaluru from **Miss. Pinki Biswas D/o Sri.Kankan Biswas (Borrower).**

The reserve price, earnest money deposit and bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under: -

Reserve Price (Below which the properties will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Bid increment Amount	Date & Time for e-Auction of Property	Last Date for submission of EMD along with KYC documents
Rs. 71,69,000/-	Rs. 7,16,900/-	Rs. 50,000/-	22.05.2026, 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.	21.05.2026 Up to 4.00 p.m.

Tender No : SBI/SARB/NV/YG/2026-27/40
Title deed holder : Miss. Pinki Biswas D/o. Sri. Kankan Biswas

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Converted Sy.No.62/3, measuring 28 Guntas, presently bearing Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike No.1104, (converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order bearing No.ALN(E.B)(Ka)SR/39/2011-12, dated 23.08.2011, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Dist, Bangalore) situated at Belathur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and **bounded on the: East by:** Government Land and Property belong to Ayyappa Swamy Temple, **West by:** Property belongs to Sri.M.Veerappa, **North by:** Government Road, **South by:** Property belongs to Sri. Nanjappa Reddy.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : (Description of the undivided share of land in the Schedule "A" Property agreed to be sold) : 462 Sq.feet undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule "A" Property (proportionate to the Schedule "C" Property.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : (Description of the Flat agreed to sold) : Residential Flat bearing No.317, in the Third Floor, measuring 1215 Sq.Feet Super Built Up Area, containing Two Bed Rooms, together with One Covered Car Parking Space, including proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase and lifts in the proposed multistoried residential building constructed over Schedule "A" Property known as "USHODAYA PALLAVI" and the flat held in the name of **Miss. Pinki Biswas. East by :** Open to sky, **West by :** Corridor, **North by :** Lift and Staircase, **South by :** Flat No. 316.

The constructed walls are built out of Brick and Cement with Ceramic/Vitrified flooring and RCC Roofing it is provided with amenities like electricity, water and sanitary connections. The wood used to teak frame for entrance door with flush doors for other doors with PVC/Anodized aluminum windows.

Sale Deed dated 04.02.2023 is registered in favour of **Miss.Pinki Biswas** in the office of SRO, Shivajinagar (Mahadevapura) Bangalore in Book No.1, under Document No. MDP-1-10567/2022-23 and CD No: MDPD1297 dated 04.02.2023.

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **PSB Alliance Pvt Limited https://baanknet.com**

Date and Time during which inspection of the immovable secured assets to be sold and intending bidders should satisfy themselves about the assets and their specification. On or before **21.05.2026 , between 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.** with prior appointment. Contact person with mobile number **Sri. Anjan Kumar. D, Cell No. 8660590654.**

Date: 18.04.2026
Place: Bangalore.

Sd/- Authorised Officer
State Bank of India, SARB, Bangalore

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. EE(E)/AEE-1/Projects/TKR/2026-27/18-20 **Date:13.04.2026**

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL has formulated a scheme under Section 67 R/W Section 164 of the Indian Electricity Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67(2)(C) of the said act for information to the public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows.

A)Name of the work: Establishing 2x 20 MVA 66/11KV Sub-station at **Bhogasandra** and construction of 66 kV LILO line on DC towers using Coyote ACSR conductor from existing 66kV Hosakere-Hagalawadi SC line to proposed 66/11kV sub-station at Bhogasandra for a distance of 6.87 Kms and Construction of one number of 66KV Terminal Bay at existing 66/11KV Hosakere S/s for terminating 66KV line to proposed 66/11kV Bhogasandra sub-station n Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District.

Areas 66KV Line passing through: Tumakuru District, Gubbi Taluk

Hagalawadi Hobli Villages **(1) Shettihalli** Sy No: 98, **(2) Pura** Sy No: 21 **(3) Yarekavalu** Sy No: 107, 106, 108, 109, 104, 105, 103, 113, 114, 120, 121, 117, 118, 148,

Nittur Hobli Villages **(1) Haradagere:** Sy No: 31, 118, 119, 30, 128, 127, 33, 34, 131 **(2) Bandahalli** Sy No: - 13, 11, 10, 8, 35, 34, 33 **(3) Bhogasandra** Sy No: - 65, 41, 81

Purpose: For improving the quality of power supply in and around the villages surrounding Bhogasandra.

Approximate length: 6.87 Kms.

Approximate Cost: Rs. 2745.90 Lakhs

B) Name of the work: Establishing **2x150MVA, & 2x20MVA,** 220/66/11kV Sub-station at **Sirivara (Kodimuddanahalli)** in Tumakuru taluk & district along with Construction of 14.94km of 220kV SC LILO line from the existing 220kV Shivamogga-Anthrasanahalli (B1) Line using HPC conductor, 4.388km of 66kV DC LILO (MC) line from existing 66kV Anthrasanahalli- Anchepalya DC line using Drake conductor & 15.03km of 66kV DC line to the existing 66/11kV Honnudike sub-station using drake conductor along with Construction of 2 no's. of 66kV Terminal Bays at existing 66/11kV Honnudike sub-station.

Purpose: For reducing the loads of existing 220/66/11kV Antharasanahalli S/s and 22/66kV Anchepalya sub-station and for improving the quality of power supply in and around the villages surrounding Sirivara (Kodimuddanahalli).

Approximate Cost: Rs.19485.43 Lakhs.

1.Areas 220KV LILO Line passing through: Tumakuru District & Taluk

Kasaba West Hobli Villages (1) Habbattanahalli Village Sy No: 40, 39, 38, 36, 35, 34, 32, 31, 29, 28, 27, 22, 21, 20, 19,18,17,16,13,12 (2) Mallasandra Amanikere village Sy No: 260, 261, 264, 262, 265, 263, 245, 246, 243, 242, 247, 241, 248, 240, 239, 238, 249, 120, 121, 118, 119, 116, 117, 82, 83, 88, 93, 94(3) Halanur village Sy No: 30, 29, 211, 28, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 14, 15, 13, 4, 12, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 105, 126, 125, 124, 106, 117.

Hebbur Hobli villages (1) Karadigere Kaval village Sy No: 108, 112, 111, 114, 115, 120, 116, 117, 118, 123, 122, 132, 135, 134, 136, 155, 154, 153, 158, 159, 163, 164, 165 (2) Mallappanahalli village Sy No: 65, 66, 67, 69, 71, 72, 82, 77, 76, 78, 79 (3) Karadigere village Sy No: 4, 3, 2, 1, 79, 61, 60, 59, 58, 55, 53, 51 (4) Makanahalli village Sy No: 44, 43, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 55, 57, 60, 58, 59, 61, 63, 78, 80, 82, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91 (5) Gollahalli village Sy No: 4, 22, 91, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (6) Puradakatte Kaval village Sy No: 89 (7) Puradakatte village Sy No: 24, 2, 22, 20 (8) Sirivara village Sy No: 91, 92, 93, 94, 95 (9) Rayapura village Sy No: 75, 76 (10) Kodimuddanahalli village Sy No: 46.

Approximate length: 14.94 Kms.

2. Areas 66KV DC LILO (MC) Line passing through: Tumakuru District & Taluk

Hebbur Hobli villages (1) Kodimuddanahalli village Sy No: 45, 38, 37, 35, 31, 33, 21, 32, 22, 24, 23 (2) Rayapura village Sy No: 77, 79, 80, 84 (3) Kembalalu Amanikere village Sy No: 5 (4) Kembalalu Valalagere Kaval village Sy No: 28, 25, 26, 18, 20, 19, 16, 15 (5) Nagavalli Amanikere village Sy No: 95, 99, 98, 97, 96, 110 (6) Ballagere village Sy No: 134, 133, 132.

Approximate length: 4.388 Kms.

3. Areas 66KV DC Line passing through: Tumakuru District & Taluk

Hebbur Hobli villages (1) Kodimuddanahalli village Sy No: 45, 38, 43, 39, 41, 40, 52, 2, 3, 4 (2) Seenappanahalli village Sy No: 21, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2. (3) Kembalalu Amanikere village Sy No: 5 (4) Nagavalli Amanikere village Sy No: 13, 18, 15, 17, 16, 23, 22, 24, 26, 28, 35, 36, 46, 45, 48, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 64, 62, 63, 66, 81, 80, 78, 79, 75, 74, 192, 198, 197, 210, 211, 212, 209, 216, 217, 225, 226, 227, 228, 258, 256, 252, 63 (5) Nagavalli village Sy No: 102, 26, 18, 22, 20, 21, 16, 14 (6) Honasigere village Sy No: 63 (7) Honasigere Kaval village Sy No: 75, 35, 37, 74, 36, 71, 27, 26, 79, 25, 44, 24, 18, 17, 16, 15, 66, 4.

Gulur Hobli villages (1) Mulukunte village Sy No: 113, 112, 110, 109, 111, 107, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 105, 106, 123, 122, 132, 131, 133, 134, 135, 146, 151, 152, 153, 154, 3 (2) Veeranayakanahali village Sy No: 99, 98, 79, 75, 76, 80, 58, 59, 49, 50, 53, 56, 52, 54, 35, 34, 33, 32, 30, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 29, 19, 17, 16, 14, 162 (3) Gadamachanahalli village Sy No: 13, 12, 10, 9, 5 (4) Honnudike village Sy No: 22, 23, 24, 25.

Approximate length: 15.03 Kms.

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities passes under part III of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (13 of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objections or discrepancies regarding the above schemes shall be sent to the office of The Executive Engineer El., Project Division, KPTCL, Kothitopu, Tumakuru within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL's pursuance.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Ele.,
Project Division, KPTCL, Kothithopu, Tumakuru- 572102

13% fall in cooking gas LPG consumption as supply disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict hit availability for both household kitchens and commercial users, according to latest official data

Corporates may delay salary restructuring

Companies grapple with fresh hurdles of aligning compensation with the new Income Tax framework

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

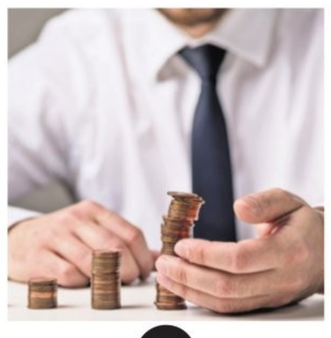
COMPANIES may take longer than expected to roll out revised employee salary structures under the Income-tax Act, 2025, several tax experts cautioned. With barely a couple of quarters since the implementation of the labour codes—under which corporates had to restructure salaries—companies are now grappling with fresh hurdles of aligning compensation with the new Income-Tax framework.

The primary challenge stems from corporates having to recalibrate salary structures across two parallel reform tracks, experts said.

"The key hurdle corporates are facing is that salary structures are currently being re-evaluated simultaneously under two major reform tracks. On the tax side, employers are reassessing allowances, perquisites, exemptions and reimbursements under the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Rules thereunder," said Rajashree Sarna, Partner – Global People Solutions, Grant Thornton Bharat.

She added that the government has pushed for wider adoption of the new tax regime, with nearly 75% of individual taxpayers already opting for it.

However, exemption thresholds under certain allowances—such as house rent allowance (HRA) and children's education/hostel allowance—under the old tax regime have been increased. This requires employers to design compensation structures that work for employees under both regimes. At the same time, under the new labour codes, a uniform definition of "wages" has been



On the tax side, employers are reassessing allowances, perquisites, exemptions and reimbursements under the Income-tax Act, 2025, and the Rules thereunder

Rajashree Sarna, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat

introduced, forming the basis for calculating statutory benefits such as provident fund, employee state insurance, gratuity and leave encashment.

Tax experts noted that companies had only recently completed a detailed review of salary components to determine what qualifies as wages; incorporating changes under the new Income-tax Act has added another layer of complexity.

Until recently, experts said, the new tax regime was clearly more beneficial for most taxpayers.

"With the increase in exempt salary components, individuals will now need to undertake a more detailed optimisation analysis on a case-by-case basis (old vs new). From an employer's standpoint, this introduces an additional layer of complexity. Companies will need to revisit payroll structures and support employees in evaluating the old versus new regime, increasing both advisory and administrative effort," said Shaily Gupta, Partner, Direct Tax, Khaitan & Co.

Experts added that the timing of implementation has further complicated matters.

With the final rules notified only in late March, many companies did not have adequate time to operationalise changes from the start of the financial year on April 1. "Based on our interactions with corporates, implementation is likely to be staggered, with smoother adoption expected over the next few payroll cycles," Gupta added.

For corporates, this means the transition to the new tax framework may be slower and more complex than initially anticipated.

IN CONVERSATION

DHIRAJ RELLI
Chief executive officer & managing director, HDFC Securities

'Crises are temporary, but compounding is permanent in market'

HDFC Securities chief executive **Dhiraj Relli**, though is bullish on the market, doesn't see any net returns this year as there are many missing cogs in the market wheel for a broader rally. In an interview with **Benn Kochuveedan** of TNIE he tells the worst is behind us and investors can still rake in real moolah if they entered on the dips as market will remain range-bound. **Excerpts**:

Is the market out of the woods?
Yes, corrections of the past 18 months are already behind us, and we believe the market has the potential to do well. My view is simple: the Iran war will end. Historically, crises are temporary, but compounding is permanent. If you look at past events—wars, terror attacks, geopolitical crises—they lead to 10-15% corrections, followed by strong rebounds of 35–40% within six months. I see the market rebounding by 12–14% from here.

What makes you so optimistic after massive sell-offs? What's your Nifty target?
My optimism is based on a few key factors. Over the past 18 months, we've seen both price correction and time correction. Secondly, we're assuming the Iran war will come to an end. I don't know whether it will take two, four, or six weeks, but it will end.

We'd earlier estimated 18% earnings growth across our coverage universe of 277 stocks. Because of the war, we cut that slightly and even after that, we still see 10-12% earnings growth. We believe markets have the potential to do well.

Once the war ends, investor sentiment will shift. What is currently the fear of missing out may turn into what I call 'frustration of missing out.' You can see this in the latest data. Everyone expected SIP flows to fall, but instead we saw a record ₹32,000 crore of SIP inflows in March. That shows the resilience of retail investors. Also, there is a strong trend of financialisation and equitisation of savings. Domestic investors remain positive. ETF flows are also strong.

Because of the war, we have cut down earnings forecast and even after that, we still see 10-12% growth. With this earnings visibility and the corrections already behind us, we believe markets have the potential to do well. Once this war ends, investor sentiment will shift.

Why are you excluding Covid from your correction phase comparison?
Because the Covid-19 was a very different kind of a crisis. It lasted 18-24 months. The events we're comparing are shorter—typically three to six months crisis. Even a one-day event like 26/11 caused a small correction but was followed by a strong rebound. So based on historical patterns, we believe over the next six months, say post-Diwali, the markets should recoup. Even then, we aren't talking about extraordinary returns—just a 12–14% move, which aligns with earnings expectations.

But doesn't that still imply limited returns or no real returns at all?
Exactly. Markets may remain range-bound for a longer period. For example, they could move between 24,000 and 27,000 over several years. The Nifty peak was 26,358.25 on January 5, 2026. It could reclaim that but that does not mean it would go up from there. So, the returns depend on the entry point. If you enter at lower levels, you make money; if you enter at the peak, you may see no returns for years. There are many examples of this. Cisco took nearly 25 years to return to its previous high reached in 2001. Back home, Wipro had a long period of stagnation. The key factor here is valuation.

So was there a bubble earlier?
There was froth. In September 2024, valuations were high—27–28x earnings. We were trading at 100% premium to emerging markets as against a long-term average of 60%. That's when foreign investors started selling. Our current premium to EMs is 31.2%.

Who created that froth? FPIs?
Partly. But the bigger issue was valuation and relative opportunity. FPIs had better options elsewhere—especially in markets like Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the even US.

MONEY-WISE

RULES TAILORED FOR FINANCIAL SITUATION

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

I live in Navi Mumbai and one couple aged 35 years asked me 'Should I buy a house in Panvel, for my family – our jobs are in Vashi.

Here is what I told them....

Here is a set of financial rules tailored for your situation — a 35-year-old couple with combined CTC of ₹1 crore (about ₹50 lakh each), working in Vashi, planning to buy a house in Panvel. This is a smart move: 3BHK flats currently average ₹1.2–1.8 cr (₹1.3–1.6 cr is realistic for a good ready-to-move or under-construction project in New Panvel. Commute is only 25–40 minutes by train or 20 minutes by car — far better than most Mumbai suburbs.

First, Know Your Real Numbers (Take-Home + Affordability)

- Combined take-home: ₹5.4–6 lakh a month. Each person pays ₹11 lakh tax + ₹3–4 lakh PF/ other deductions on ₹50 lakh CTC.
- House price you can comfortably afford: ₹1.5–2 cr.
- Loan example: ₹1.5 cr house , 20% down payment (₹30 lakh from you), ₹1.2 cr home loan at 8.5% for 20 years; EMI ₹1.04 lakh/month.
- This EMI is only 17–19% of your combined take-home — very safe. In 2 years this will look small when your take home pay increases!

Golden Rule for Home Loan (3-20-30-40 Rule)

- The House should not cost more than 3x your CTC
- 20 year loan, don't stretch it to 30 years.
- 30% maximum of monthly take-home on total EMIs.
- 40% down payment

Pre-Purchase Action Plan

BUILD DOWN PAYMENT

- Target ₹40–50 lakh liquid (₹30 lakh down + ₹10–15 lakh emergency).
- Park in liquid funds / savings account @ 6–7%.
- Emergency fund first 6–9 months of expenses (₹12–18 lakh) in liquid funds.
- Clear all other debt (credit cards, personal loans) before applying for home loan.
- **Boost CIBIL:** Should be 750+ (joint loan gets better rate).
- Post-Purchase Rules (Stay Wealthy After Buying)
- EMI cap: Never let total EMIs cross 30% of take-home.
- Don't Prepay aggressively: Use any bonus/increment to invest in good mutual funds.
- Maintain 40% savings rate even after EMI starts — ₹1.5+ lakh monthly into SIPs.
- Protection & Long-Term Rules (Non-Negotiable)

Insurance

- **Term life:** ₹1–1.5 Cr each (pure term).
- Family floater health: ₹25 lakh top-up.

RETIREMENT

- 35 years old ₹you still have 25–30 years. Invest in equity mutual funds/SIPs (index + flexi-cap+multi-asset).
- **Goal:** ₹10–15 Cr corpus by age 60.

TAX OPTIMISATION

Home loan interest (up to ₹2 lakh) + principal (80C) — switch to old regime only if you have other deductions; otherwise new regime is simpler.

Quick Checklist Before You Finalise the House

House price ≤ 3× combined annual take-home (you are at ~2.5× — excellent).

MONEY MATTERS

HOW IS AI SHAPING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THE impact of artificial intelligence across sectors is slowly becoming visible. Just like all other segments, it is shaping the future of your money, too. A World Bank report summarising annual digital trends for 2025 highlights that this transition is not just about silicon and code. It is a fundamental restructuring of how wealth is created, managed, and preserved in the Indian economy. For you, merely understanding the shift is not enough. You have to make it a cornerstone of your personal finances.

Impact on knowledge

When you are initially building your savings and investments, there are leaks due to a lack of knowledge. You end up choosing the wrong instruments that cost you more and diminish your long-term returns. Financial advice and wealth management used to be a prerogative of the rich. One of the direct benefits of AI adoption is in financial advice, where it can personalise recommendations to help you determine an appropriate asset allocation. That is irrespective of your net worth. The new generation fintech apps are loaded with robo advisory services that you can utilise to analyse things like your spending patterns, future cash flow needs and make adjustments to your savings and investments. Your existing bank may already have introduced features based on the usage trends that are suitable for you.

For many years, banks could not easily gather relevant information about you. As a result, despite having a relatively decent profile, your loan applications could have been rejected. A significant part of India's population was 'credit-invisible'. The World Bank report identifies AI-driven alternative credit scoring as a major catalyst for financial inclusion. By analysing non-traditional data—such as utility bill payments, transaction histories on digital wallets, and even social footprints—AI is allowing banks to extend credit to small business owners and individuals who were previously ignored.

From a personal finance perspective, this means that your "digital reputation" is becoming as valuable as your credit score. Maintaining healthy digital habits and utilising regulated fintech platforms can open doors to cheaper home loans and business credit, which are essential levers for building generational wealth.

EXPRES ILLUSTRATION

Your investments

If you are looking to grow wealth through equity markets, the AI push is offering a compelling narrative. You can invest in companies that are spearheading AI-driven transformations in their sectors. While India does not have companies making high-end chips or AI products that sell worldwide, the World Bank report highlights significant productivity gains from manufacturing to retail through AI integration. You may want to look beyond "tech companies" and identify businesses that are effectively using AI to reduce operational costs and improve profit margins. Whether it's an FMCG giant using AI to optimise its rural supply chain or a healthcare firm using it for faster diagnostics, the long-term winners in your portfolio will be those that embrace this technological shift early. Mutual funds and ETFs focusing on innovation and digital transformation are becoming essential components of a diversified Indian portfolio.

The Risks

RBI has recently published a discussion paper on fraud. Fraudsters are deploying various tactics, such as bogus call centres, deepfake-driven impersonation scams and mule account networks. "Almost all sections of society, especially the vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, have fallen prey to such frauds," it said.

With rapid adoption comes increased risk. The integration of AI into the financial sector has, unfortunately, also empowered sophisticated cyber-fraudsters. You need to take the initiative to protect your wealth.

MCX receives Sebi approval to launch coal exchange, to invest ₹100 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX), the country's largest commodity exchange, is set to expand its footprint into the energy sector following regulatory approval to establish a coal exchange.

In a regulatory filing dated April 18, 2026, MCX announced that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has granted approval under the SECC Regulations for an investment in a proposed subsidiary, tentatively named MCX Coal Exchange Ltd. or MCX Coal Exchange of India Ltd.

The initiative aims to modernise India's coal market by developing a regulated, technology-driven platform for the physical delivery of coal. MCX intends to leverage its expertise

Coal mkt modernisation

The initiative aims to modernise India's coal market by developing a regulated, technology-driven platform for the physical delivery of coal. MCX intends to leverage its expertise in governance, surveillance, and clearing mechanisms

in governance, surveillance, and clearing mechanisms to create a transparent digital marketplace where coal can be traded at market-driven, fair prices. This move aligns with the broader vision of the Government of India to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the domestic coal ecosystem.

MCX will initially hold a 100% stake in the subsidiary, though it may seek additional partners in the future. The exchange plans to invest up to ₹100 crore to meet minimum net worth requirements as stipulated by draft Coal Exchange Rules. Shares will be acquired at a par value of ₹10 per share.

While Sebi has approved the investment as of April 17, 2026, the company is yet to be formally incorporated. Following incorporation, MCX plans to submit a licence application to the Coal Controller Organization of India as per guidelines.

Adani to focus on realty biz near airports

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

ADANI Enterprises (AEL) has announced the incorporation of three new wholly owned subsidiaries focused on real estate and hospitality developments near its airport projects. The move, disclosed in a regulatory filing on April 18, 2026, signals a strategic push by the conglomerate to monetise and develop land parcels surrounding its aviation hubs.

AEL has informed the BSE and NSE that its step-down wholly-owned subsidiary, Adani Airport City Limited, has incorporated three new wholly-owned subsidiaries. These new entities—Adani Navi Mumbai Airport City Limited (ANMACL), Adani Guwahati Airport City Limited (AGACL), and Adani Ahmedabad Airport City Limited (AAACL)—were all incorporated in India on April 6, 2026.

Strategic push to develop lands around aviation hubs

The move, disclosed in a regulatory filing on April 18, 2026, signals a strategic push by the conglomerate to monetise and develop land parcels surrounding its aviation hubs. The primary business objective for these subsidiaries falls under real estate activities.

The primary business objective for these subsidiaries falls under real estate activities. Specifically, ANMACL, AGACL, and AAACL are set to engage in the development, leasing, and construction of buildings, as well as the management of integrated hotels, restaurants, banquets, and business centres.

Each of the three companies has been established with a paid-up share capital of ₹10,00,000, consisting of 100,000 equity shares at a face value of ₹10 per share. Adani Airport City Limited holds 100% of the shareholding in each entity, maintaining them as wholly owned subsidiaries within the broader Adani Enterprises corporate structure. The incorporation was completed via cash consideration and did not require any specific governmental or regulatory approvals.

The Adani Group through its subsidiary Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) operates and manages six airports — Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram. It signed concession agreements with the Airports Authority of India for all six airports.

AAHL also holds a 73% stake in Mumbai International Airport Ltd, which in turn holds a 74% stake in Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd.

Struggling CSK hit by Mhatre injury

Chennai Super Kings have been dealt a major blow with Ayush Mhatre sustaining a hamstring tear during their match against Sunrisers Hyderabad. Mhatre, who came in as an impact substitute, appeared in visible discomfort and clutched his hamstring while attempting a run, requiring on-field treatment during CSK's 10-run loss to SRH on Sunday.

HAPPY HOMECOMING FOR CANDIDATES WINNER VAISHALI

Father and supporters welcome 24-year-old Grandmaster with flowers, chess-board themed cake at Chennai International Airport in wee hours on Sunday

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

WHEN Ramesh Babu got a call from Nagalakshmi around 12.10 am, his wife and mother of Candidates champion R Vaishali, it was an indication that her flight had landed in Chennai from Frankfurt. Days after beating Kateryn Lagno in the final round of the Women's Candidates at Paphos, Cyprus to emerge victorious, Vaishali returned to the city at midnight on Sunday.

The international arrivals at the Chennai International Airport witnessed an outpour much before her arrival. Families were getting reunited, children were finally getting to see their parents, who had been just pixels of various colours on their mobile screens for some time due to West Asia conflict. As flight activity had been curtailed due to US-Israel's war with Iran, those waiting at the terminal were a picture of emotions as they eagerly anticipated their loved ones' arrival.

But at the extreme left of the A5 exit of the T2, Vaishali's father, relatives and friends patiently waited, even after knowing that she had landed. While her father waited for his daughter, son and wife like any other man would, the relatives and friends kept their excitement levels in full swing. Around 30-35 school students, trying to battle sleep, patiently waited, as they were to unfurl a banner which read 'R Vaishali, Candidates Champion.'

And by 1.15am, the woman of the hour finally walked towards the exit. The excitement grew further, the flowers — which were in covers — finally got to see the lights, the turbans waiting to be put on. It was the city's way of welcoming one of its own. But somewhere in the swelling crowd stood her father, with the walker on. His smile was wide and radiant when he saw his family just wearing off the tiredness of eight and a half-hour flight from Frankfurt. (Vaishali flew from Larnaca (Cyprus) to Frankfurt for 4 hours, followed by a 5 hour layover before a flight towards Chennai). After warmly embracing her father, she was taken to a spot where she cut a cake which had the chess board, which read 'Congratulations Vaishali' with a Queen's piece.

With the crowd surrounding her, trying to get a glimpse of her, the 24-year-old spoke about the title win in Cyprus. "It was a very close event and an unpredictable one, it could have gone either way and I am very happy. I won the last game which was very crucial in a very tense situation," she told select media.

With four rounds left, Vaishali was in the lead there in Cyprus. She said that the defeat to Zhu Jiner released the pressure she had from leading by a point. "Having a one point lead, I felt a lot of pressure. But after losing to Jiner, it was wide open and we were again in a joint lead. I felt like everything was back to normal and I was trying to focus on the remaining games," she said.

This also marked the conclusion of a hectic campaign for her. "It's a long tournament and quite a gruelling one. I think you have to be focussed until the end to handle the pressure. Everything was a learning experience for me," she said.

Will put strong bid to host World C'ships: AICF official

Vaishali's entry to the women's World Championship final as a challenger to defending champion Ju Wenjun means that India will have two players fighting for titles. In the Open category, reigning champ D Gukesh will face Javokhir Sindarov, who won the Candidates in Cyprus. AK Verma, head of operations of All India Chess Federation (AICF) said that the national body will try to bring the final to India. "We will fill the bid form first and then we will go to the bidding process," he said. In 2024, India missed out on hosting the Worlds, as Singapore got the hosting rights at the last minute thanks to Google being roped in as a sponsor. "Initially, FIDE was ready to host (in 2024), frankly speaking," he said. The TN government also pushed for the marquee event to be hosted here, as they were ready to pay appropriate fees, according to Verma.

R Vaishali with her parents at the Chennai International Airport | EXPRESS

> **It was a very close event and an unpredictable one, it could have gone either way and I am very happy. I won the last game which was very crucial in a very tense situation. I think you have to be focussed until the end to handle the pressure. Everything was a learning experience for me**
>
> - R Vaishali, Candidates winner

Kushagra aims to be all-format star

GOMESH S @ Chennai

KUMAR Kushagra always dreamt big. Right from the time he was coming up the ranks in Jharkhand age-group to going for big money in the 2023 IPL mini auction, the 21-year-old has always been one of those talents who was made of bigger things. And over the years, he had ticked the right boxes to build that reputation.

However, somewhere along the line he felt he needed more. He had the shots, the talent and the skills as a gloveman, but Kushagra felt something was missing. His aim is to play for India in all three formats but at the same time, he knew he needed the clarity to get to the next level. Enter Gujarat Titans and Vikram Solanki. First signed by Delhi Capitals in the mini auction, Kushagra found himself in the Titans set up last year where he worked with Solanki and Ashish Nehra.

"Your aim is to play in all three formats of India. You have to do some upgrades in your game. Obviously, I couldn't do it my way. I could only do it with someone's guidance. That should be the best. It should enhance my game. It should enhance my performance. Vikram sir was there. Ashish sir gave a lot of inputs when I came to GT. I had those shots. But I was very much confused that which kind of shots I should play in these kinds of situations. So, that thing, the clarity, plays a very big role," Kushagra told this daily.

The youngster warmed the bench through the 2025 season while working on the sidelines with Solanki and Nehra. One of the things was the belief to bat up the order and deliver for the team irrespective of the format. And it all came to fruition as Kushagra smashed 368 runs in Vijay Hazare, 601 runs in Ranji Trophy and 422 in Syed Mushtaq Ali, helping Jharkhand win the T20 title. In Ishan Kishan's absence, he also led the team in the 50-over format. "Before the last season, I was doing a lot of lower down the order. Even in the white ball tournaments, I was playing at No 5-6. I was not getting that much opportunity to reveal myself or justify my game. When I came to the GT camp, they told me that I am a player who can bat at the top of the order. You can build the innings and showcase your performance in your team. So, I went back and told them to let me bat at No 3-4. From there, my game got enhanced. I got more time to bat. I used to open for my team in U16 and U19. When the Ranji Trophy came, there were a lot of senior players who were opening. Initially, I was not getting a chance. But now that I have got a chance, I am trying to use that opportunity. They told me to bat at the top of the order. I should have clarity in my shots. I should know how to use my power play. You just have to chip over the fielders. That should be set in your mind. So, these were the things that really helped me," Kushagra explained.

While Solanki worked with him on sidelines, Kushagra spent most of his time at Titans shadowing former England captain Jos Buttler. An all-format player who opens in T20s, bats in middle-order in ODIs and is a modern day great, Kushagra did not hesitate going up to Buttler for inputs and the Englishman took him under the wings. "We speak a lot of cricket. He has the mental skills, technique and ability, having played all formats for England over the years. If you are playing for your country in all three formats and doing it for such a long time, it's a very proud feeling. I think I can become that kind of a player. That's why I take a lot of input from Buttler. Because in all three formats... he bats in different places. So, how does he set that alignment of batting? How does he set it mentally? Those are the things we talk about all the time."

And earlier this month, Kushagra tried to apply it all when he made his debut for Titans in the absence of Shubman Gill. He scored a 14-ball 18, before making way for Gill in the next game, but one thing seems clear. The 21-year-old is here to stay and is doing everything in his power to make sure of it.

Desperate MI take on Titans

With Mumbai Indians playing Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad, a look...

Mumbai in tough spot

Hard conversations and tough calls are the phrases Hardik used after their loss in the last game. Rohit is out of action, Suryakumar is out of form and Bumrah is not getting wickets. Besides, Pandya's captaincy is also under the lens.

In-form Gill in focus

Gill finally found some rhythm and form as Titans won three on the trot. Now, they will be keen to keep the winning run going. But for that, they will need their captain to continue batting the way he did against KKR.

GT vs MI, Ahmedabad | Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar, 7.30 PM

Bowlers, Rinku help KKR end winless streak

ENS @ Chennai

THEIR bowlers (Kartik Tyagi 3/22, Varun Chakaravarthy 3/14 and Sunil Narine 2/26) did the job to perfection restricting Rajasthan Royals to 155/9 but batters continue to struggled before Rinku Singh (53 n.o) and Anukul Roy (29 n.o) led Kolkata Knight Riders to maiden victory of the season.

Chasing the manageable target, the hosts, at one stage, were 87/6 at the Eden Gardens on Sunday but vice-captain Rinku along with Roy added 76 runs for the seventh wicket as the three-time champions crossed the line with two balls to spare. They also needed a bit of luck to break the jinx with Rinku being dropped by Nandre Burger at eight. The southpaw from Uttar Pradesh made full use of the reprieve with Roy playing the role of a perfect foil.

The win meant Kolkata are now placed ninth on the points table above five-time champions Mumbai Indians. For Rajasthan, it was their second consecutive loss after three straight wins. Except openers — Yashasvi Jaiswal (39) and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (46) — none of their batters came good thus failing to post a good total on the board despite a solid opening partnership of 81 inside nine overs. **Brief scores:** RR 155/9 in 20 ovs (Sooryavanshi 46; Tyagi 3/22, Chakaravarthy 3/14, Narine 2/26) **lost to** KKR 161/6 in 19.4 ovs (Rinku 53 n.o, Roy 29 n.o; Jadeja 2/8).

KKR players celebrate their first win of the season on Sunday in Kolkata | BCCI

Arya, Connolly step up for Punjab

ENS @ Chennai

THE 182-run partnership between Priyansh Arya (93) and Cooper Connolly (87) for the second wicket and late forays from Shashank Singh and Marcus Stoinis helped Punjab Kings beat Lucknow Super Giants by 54 runs in the Indian Premier League in Mullanpur on Sunday. Despite a strong start, Lucknow's task remained difficult, as batters could not score big. Earlier, From 3/1 in the first over the duo carried the hosts to 185/2 within 13 overs. The highest point of this partnership came in the 13th over, when Aiden Markram was taken for 32 runs. After this onslaught however, the duo did not remain for long. Connolly was caught by Manimaran Siddharth off Prince Yadav in the 14th over. In the following over, Arya was caught by Mitchell Marsh off Siddharth. He fell seven runs short of his century.

Priyansh Arya scored a 37-ball 93 to help PBKS post 254/7 | BCCI

Skipper Shreyas Iyer (5) and Nehal Wadhera (13) failed to consolidate on the barrage caused by the duo. Asked to bat first, Punjab Kings lost their in-form opener Prabhsimran Singh for a first-ball duck.

Prabhsimran tried to drive the ball through the cover, which found a thick outside edge and was caught at slip by Marsh. **Brief scores:** PBKS 254/7 in 20 ovs (Arya 93, Connolly 87; Prince 2/25) **bt** LSG 200/5 in 20 ovs (Pant 43; Jansen 2/37).

ISL: Bagan win rain-delayed tie

ENS @ Chennai

ROBINHO Azevedo's first-time shot towards goal was enough for defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) to defeat NorthEast in a rain-delayed tie of the Indian Super League at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Sunday. Visuals of puddles across the stadium were seen at the break, and the referees delayed the start of second half. Ground staff were seen clearing excess water outside the pitch, while the corners appeared slightly inundated. The second half began after inspections by officials.

Shafali's fifty in vain as South Africa take 2-0 lead

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

INDIA opener Shafali Verma, playing her 100th T20I, scored a breezy 57, but that was not enough as the visitors lost to South Africa by eight wickets in the second T20I in Durban on Sunday. With the win, hosts took 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

With only few months to go for the T20 World Cup, this series was supposed to serve as a preparation for India women. However, so far they have not turned up. In both matches, India lost momentum in the middle-order and failed to post a defendable total. India were bowled out for 147, which South Africa chased down with ease, thanks to fifties from Laura Wolvaardt and Sune Luus. **Brief scores:** India 147 in 20 ovs (Shafali 57; Chloe 3/22) **lost to** SA 148/2 in 17.1 ovs (Wolvaardt 54, Luus 57; Shreyanka 2/35).

Shafali Verma | BCCI

EXPRESS READ

Agarkar's contract renewed till next year

NEW DELHI: Ajit Agarkar will continue as chairman of the senior selection committee after the BCCI decided to renew his contract for a year, keeping an eye on the 2027 ODI World Cup. Under his chairmanship, the selected Indian teams between October 2023 to March 2026 reached four ICC tournament finals, winning three of them — two T20 World Cups and one ICC Champions Trophy — and it was a foregone conclusion that his contract will be renewed for fourth year.

Rybakina beats Muchova to win Stuttgart title

STUTTGART: Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina picked up her second title of the year as she outclassed Karolina Muchova 7-5, 6-1 to win the WTA Stuttgart indoor clay-court tournament on Sunday. Top seed Rybakina, 26, snatched a tight opening set with two breaks against her seventh-seeded Czech opponent after 53 minutes on court in Germany. It's the first time the 26-year-old 2024 champion won a repeat title after claiming 12 in different tournaments previously.

Aditi cards 69 to move to T-36 in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES: India's Aditi Ashok fought back with three birdies on the back nine to move up to tied 36th place with a third-round card of 3-under 69 at the JM Eagle Los Angeles Championship here. Aditi birdied the sixth but gave it back on the Par-5 seventh. On the back nine, she birdied the 11th and added two more gains on the 16th and the 18th for a 69, after 70-72 on the first two days. Korea's Sei Young Kim led by two following a roller-coaster round of 71.

Asian U20 C'ships qualification in K'taka

NEW DELHI: Athletes aiming to earn a ticket to next month's Asian U20 Championships in Hong Kong will have to achieve the AFI qualification standards during the three-day age group competition in Tumkur, Karnataka, from April 24 to 26. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced the selection criteria for the upcoming Asian meet on Sunday. The Asian U20 Athletics Championships will be held in Hong Kong from May 28 to 31.

FOOTBALL

Haaland gives City edge over Arsenal in Premier League title showdown

AGENCIES @ London

MANCHESTER City are breathing down Arsenal's necks after Erling Haaland's strike beat the Gunners 2-1 on Sunday to land a potentially decisive blow in the Premier League title race.

Pep Guardiola's men close to within three points of the leaders and have a game in hand with momentum firmly in their favour as Arsenal's quest for a first league title in 22 years unravels. Defeat to City in the League Cup final last month has sparked a run of one win in six games in all competitions for Mikel Arteta's men, including four consecutive defeats in domestic competitions.

Victory over relegation-bound Burnley on Wednesday will take City top for the first time this year.

After finishing second for the past three seasons, Arsenal are at risk of seeing another huge chance to end their long wait to be champions of England slip away. But they will also rue their luck after twice hitting the post, either side of Haaland's winner in the second half.

Manchester City players celebrate during the clash against Arsenal on Sunday | AFP

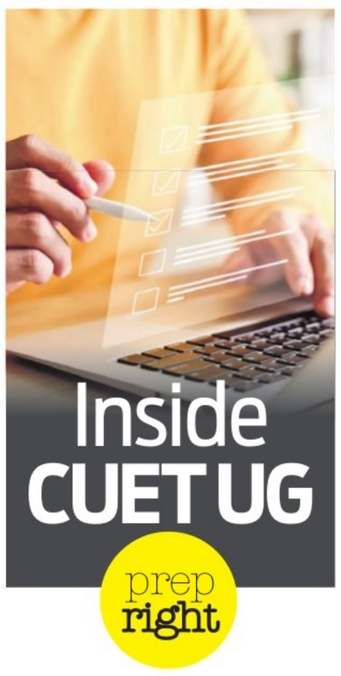
STANDINGS (TOP 5)

	Club	M	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1)	Arsenal	33	21	7	5	37	70
2)	Man City	32	20	7	5	36	67
3)	Man United	33	16	10	7	13	58
4)	Aston Villa	33	17	7	9	6	58
5)	Liverpool	33	16	7	10	11	55

RESULTS: Everton 1-2 Liverpool; Nottingham Forest 4-1 Burnley; Aston Villa 4-3 Sunderland; Man City 2-1 Arsenal.

Liverpool win derby

Virgil van Dijk scored a last-gasp winner against Everton as Liverpool strengthened their push for a Champions League spot next season. On a pivotal day in the Premier League, fourth-placed Aston Villa squandered a two-goal lead against Sunderland but scored in stoppage time to win 4-3.



Know how the national exam is structured, what it includes, and what happens after

YECHURI SASHIKANTH

THE Common University Entrance Test for Undergraduate programmes, or CUET UG, is a standardised national-level entrance test designed to create a single admissions route across institutions, allowing students from different boards and regions to compete on a common platform. Conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), it now forms the basis of admissions to central universities, replacing reliance on board marks alone, and is also used by a growing number of other participating institutions.

CUET UG 2026 at a glance

- **Total subjects:** 37 subjects
- **Subject choice**: Maximum of 5 subjects
- **Exam dates:** May 11 to 31, 2026
- **Mode of exam:** Computer-based test
- **Questions per paper:** 50 questions (All are compulsory)
- **Duration:** 60 minutes
- **Marking scheme:** +5 for each correct answer, -1 for each incorrect answer

DECODING THE ADMISSION PROCESS

The role of the NTA ends with the declaration of CUET UG results. It does not prepare merit lists or conduct admissions. Once the results are announced, the admission process is taken over by the central universities and other participating institutions.

Each university uses CUET UG scores according to its own admission rules, eligibility criteria, and seat matrix. Based on the scorecard, the respective university releases its counselling schedule, admission notifications, and merit lists separately. Candidates should rely on the official portals of universities they have applied to, and not on NTA updates alone.

DID YOU KNOW?

Candidates may choose up to a maximum of five subjects, including languages and the General Aptitude Test, irrespective of the subjects studied in Class XII.

Commerce education once centred on mastering content. It now extends into interpretation, application, and decision making in uncertain contexts, with courses drawing from multiple disciplines

BALANCING THE BOOKS

NIKHIL ABHISHEK

COMMERCE education today rests on a different set of expectations from the ones that defined it even a decade ago. The classroom still carries its familiar subjects, yet the demands placed on students have widened in scope and depth. What once centred on mastering content now extends into interpretation, application, and decision-making in uncertain contexts. "The most significant shift in commerce education is from knowledge-centric learning to competency-driven education. Knowing facts is no longer enough; students must interpret and act on them in real-world contexts. Commerce education today demands active, adaptive thinkers, not just passive, recall-driven learners," explains Dr M Thenmozhi, Professor, Department of Management Studies at IIT Madras.

This movement toward application has brought other changes alongside it. Coursework now draws from multiple disciplines, placing accounting, finance, and economics in conversation with data, policy, and management. The classroom mirrors a professional environment where problems often have very fuzzy edges, and conclusions depend on context and nuance rather than formula alone. The presence of these demands has placed greater emphasis on how students engage with information.

Employers look for graduates who can move beyond calculation and arrive at conclusions that hold under scrutiny. "Students can solve a textbook problem with precision, but struggle when the same concept appears embedded in a messy business situation with incomplete data. Data literacy and professional communication remain the most glaring gaps in today's commerce graduates," she says.

trade mind

Part of this gap can be traced to changes in how work itself is organised. Many of the tasks that used to define early-career roles have begun to move into automated systems, altering how young professionals enter the field and what they are expected to contribute from the start. "The tasks that were once considered the bread and butter of entry-level commerce professionals, such as financial reporting, auditing, credit analysis, and routine compliance functions, are being taken up by AI. What AI cannot replicate is sound professional judgement, ethical reasoning, and the ability to navigate ambiguity," she explains.

The emphasis on application extends into how students think about their own academic paths. A broad grounding in the fundamentals continues to matter, especially at the undergraduate level, where accounting, economics, and finance form the base of the discipline. At the same time, depth in a chosen area carries weight in the job market.

"At the undergraduate level, specialisation does not mean becoming a narrow technician; it means developing a pronounced strength in one area, whether that is financial markets, taxation, management accounting, or cost accounting, while retaining working fluency across the broader field," Thenmozhi notes.

This balance between breadth and depth defines how students position themselves in the workforce, and in interviews. A general understanding across subjects allows for flexibility, while a clear area of strength provides direction and credibility. The combination creates a profile that can respond to varied professional demands without losing focus. Perceptions of the field, however, often lag behind these realities. Commerce has long been associated with a predictable set of roles and a steady career trajectory. "There is a persistent belief that commerce is primarily a path to a stable, conventional career in banking, accounting, or corporate finance, and that choosing it insulates one from disruption or uncertainty," she highlights. This view continues to influence how students approach the stream and how they measure its possibilities. Such expectations, however, sit at odds with the way the field now operates.

Professional roles evolve alongside changes in markets, regulation, and technology, requiring continuous engagement with new information and frameworks. Students who treat their education as a fixed syllabus risk missing the demands that lie beyond it. A more grounded approach places emphasis on curiosity, reading beyond prescribed material, and following developments in finance, policy, and business.

These habits extend the classroom into a broader learning environment, where theory and practice inform each other. Commerce, in this sense, centres on the ability to engage with complexity over time, where roles demand the interpretation of financial data, evaluation of risk, and informed decision-making within structured systems.

What AI cannot replicate is sound professional judgement, ethical reasoning, and the ability to navigate ambiguity

Dr M Thenmozhi, Professor, Department of Management Studies at IIT-Madras

FROM CONTENT TO COMPETENCE

Commerce education now places greater emphasis on applying knowledge in real-world situations. Students are expected to interpret data, work with incomplete information, and make informed decisions. Classroom learning connects more directly with how problems are encountered and solved in professional contexts.

WHAT STUDENTS MUST FOCUS ON

Strong fundamentals still matter, but students also need data literacy, communication, and clarity in one chosen area. Employers today look for those who can analyse information, present clear arguments, and demonstrate depth in a specific domain while retaining working knowledge across the field.

Countless paths

road map

Here are all the career pathways that your BCom degree opens up for you—beyond just finance and accounting

KARTHIKEYA S

COMMERCE opens into a wide range of careers beyond finance and accountancy, including management, analytics, entrepreneurship, and public service. Understanding these options clearly, however, can be challenging. This guide maps four major career lanes for commerce students outside the traditional finance and accounting track, outlining common entry routes, the skills each path usually demands, and both standard and lesser-known roles.

MANAGEMENT

How to get in: MBA, PGDM, Graduate trainee programmes, GMAT

What it demands
- Operations planning
- Vendor management
- Process design
- KPI tracking

Standard roles
- Operations manager
- Business analyst
- Project manager
- Procurement manager

Lesser-known roles
- Chief of staff
- ESG strategy lead
- Organisational design consultant
- Continuous improvement officer

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How to get in: Business idea, Pitch deck, Seed funding, Incubator / angel network

What it demands
- Lean thinking
- Rapid prototyping
- Fundraising
- Market awareness

Standard roles
- Founder / co-founder
- Product lead
- Business dev. lead
- Startup CFO

Lesser-known roles
- Venture scout
- Fractional CFO
- RevOps specialist
- SaaS product strategist

PUBLIC SERVICE & SOCIAL SECTOR

How to get in: Civil services exams, State services, NGO internships, Public policy / administration

What it demands
- Policy analysis
- Stakeholder engagement
- Public communication
- Governance literacy

Standard roles
- Civil servant
- NGO programme manager
- Government auditor
- CSR manager

Lesser-known roles
- Policy research analyst
- Social impact adviser
- Development economist
- Inter'l development consultant

ANALYTICS & DIGITAL

How to get in: Analytics courses, SQL / Python, MBA / PGDM with data specialisation, Digital marketing certification

What it demands
- Statistical modelling
- Data visualisation
- Database basics
- BI tools

Standard roles
- Data analyst
- Business analyst
- Analytics consultant
- Product analytics manager

Lesser-known roles
- Pricing data scientist
- Data strategy officer
- Behavioural economist
- Marketplace economist

NICHE JOB!

THE PHYSICS OF CARE

From radiation safety to treatment planning, what a lesser-known healthcare role demands and where it leads

ARYA VIDYA

MEDICAL physics is one of the lesser-known career paths that offers the chance to see the practical application of physics in clinical settings. It is a field where concepts learned in textbooks can be seen working directly in patient care, making it a unique and meaningful profession. A medical physicist usually works in the radiation oncology department or cancer care centre.

"Our role mainly focuses on treatment planning for cancer patients, carrying out quality assurance tests for medical linear accelerators and brachytherapy machines, and handling documentation work," says Kamalaharan W, a medical physicist working in a private medical college in Bhopal.

rad idea

A medical physicist is also responsible for ensuring that machines function properly, with radiation outputs and mechanical systems remaining within the prescribed limits set by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India (AERB), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and other international radiation protection guidelines. To enter this field, the required qualifications include a BSc in Physics followed by an MSc in Medical Physics or Radiation Physics from an AERB-authorised university or college, along with 12 months of clinical training. Another pathway is completing an MSc in Physics and then pursuing a Diploma in Radiation Physics (Dip. RP) from an AERB-authorised institution. While there is no separate certification required, the 12-month internship in a hospital or clinic is considered essential.

"To succeed in this career, it is important to stay updated with recent guidelines, international cancer studies, and the growing role of AI in the field," Kamalaharan highlights.

In India, the starting salary can range from 20,000 to 90,000, depending on experience, while Radiation Safety Officers may earn above 1.2 lakh to 3 lakh. Although intake is limited in hospitals and cancer care centres, the scope remains strong as the need for cancer care continues to grow, creating demand for medical physicists and related research.

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DAY'S DIARY

Doll controversy

In 2018, a Mexican court barred sales of Frida Kahlo Barbie doll ruling that members of her family own the sole rights to her image

'INSPIRING WOMEN' SERIES

Mattel, which manufactures Barbie, included a Kahlo doll in an inaugural series meant to coincide with International Women's Day, part of the 'Inspiring Women' dolls

FAMILY'S INVOLVEMENT

Kahlo's grandniece Mara Romero said that the rights very much belong to her and family. Kahlo's family was also concerned about the appearance of the doll

MISREPRESENTATION

Romero explained that the doll's complexion was too light and proposed that it be accessorised with Mexican jewellery

CE's curated list of events in B'luru

PG 2

ONE ANIME-TED SMASH!

Ahead of the Thomas Cup on April 24, Asia Championships' silver medallist Ayush Shetty tells *CE* about binge-watching anime to reset and return to the court recharged

A still from *One Piece*

My favourite anime character is Zoro from One Piece. He is hardworking, disciplined in pursuing his goals, loyal to his crew, and wants to become the best in the world, which inspires me a lot

Ayush Shetty, badminton star

PIC: BADMINTON ASIA CHAMPIONSHIP

SAPTARSHI C

FORGET the stereotype. Ayush Shetty doesn't fit into neat, quiet boxes. The Badminton Asia Championships silver medallist carries a calm presence, but not the kind that stays boxed in. Off court, his world shifts to anime. Away from the high-performance routines and structured training sesh, he steps into a different kind of universe, one built on storytelling, struggle and imagination.

The 20-year-old shuttler from Karkala is an avid follower of Japanese animation, with long-running manga series *One Piece* sitting at the top of his list. Over time, it has become more than just entertainment, helping him reset. "It is a space that not only helps me switch off, but also shapes my mindset. My favourite anime character is Zoro from *One Piece*. He is hardworking, disciplined in pursuing his goals, loyal to his crew, and wants to become the best in the world, which inspires me a lot. It helps me connect to the world better and focus on my goals," says Shetty, who had a quick tête-ê-tête with *CE* in Bengaluru.

"I've watched a lot of anime, but if I had to pick a few, *One Piece* and *Attack on Titan* would be my top choices. I've binge-watched them multiple times. But if I had to recommend one for someone starting, it would be *Death Note*," the Mangaluru boy effuses with excitement when speaking about anime.

There is also an element of creativity that anime seems to nurture. Much like the unpredictable twists in *One Piece*, Shetty has been working to add variety to his game – mixing up his shots, breaking rhythm and keeping opponents guessing. His training focuses on developing backcourt variations and defensive resilience, aligning with this evolving approach. The influence is not technical but rather psychological, offering a different way of reading situations.

Zoro from *One Piece*

There's also a spark that comes through when he talks about it, an energy shift that shows how deeply it connects with him. "I want to unleash a smash like something straight out of an anime – so fast, so fierce that my opponent doesn't even get a chance to react, just watch it fly past and break through," he says with conviction.

The life of a professional athlete, particularly one on the rise, is very demanding. Between travel, training and competition, moments of genuine relaxation are rare. Yet, he still makes time for anime, which, he says, helps him maintain balance in his daily life. "I usually watch it after training or a match. The episodes are quick, so it doesn't take much time and I can return to the court with positive energy," says Shetty, who is currently in Denmark prepping for the Thomas Cup, set to begin on April 24.

Coming off his silver at the Asia Championships, the focus now is to raise the bar, as he says, "Winning Silver at the Asia Championships has been a huge source of motivation for me and it definitely pushes me to raise my level heading into the Thomas Cup. It's a team event, so we're planning to get there a bit early, settle in and adapt to the conditions and weather as quickly as possible."

Away from badminton, Shetty carries the emotions of a regular sports fan, too. A passionate FC Barcelona supporter, he admits last week wasn't easy, with the club crashing out of the UEFA Champions League. There was disappointment, a sense of what could have been. "While I was at the Mumbai airport, on my way back to India after the Asia Championships, I caught the match there. Watching FC Barcelona lose was tough. It genuinely hit me. For a moment, it was quite depressing," said the Leo Messi fan, still feeling the disappointment of the result.

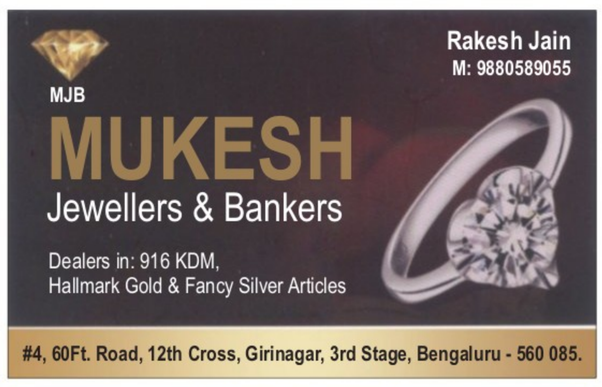
CITY READ

Panel discussion emphasises real-world skills

The East Point Group of Institutions hosted Coffee with HR: HR Unfiltered, a panel discussion where industry leaders discussed with students that adaptability, communication and real-world skills are more important than academic grades for jobs and long-term success. Panellists shared practical advice, like how strong resumes showcase problem-solving and professional behaviour, not just CGPA. The campus event, attended by students, faculty and administrators, bridged the industry-academia gap through candid talks and Q&A sessions on careers and challenges. East Point CEO Rajiv Gowda said, "We shape industry-ready talent beyond academics." Vice-Principal GS Yogesh also highlighted experiential learning initiatives. The panel urged students to build evolving practical skills for the future.

Five mobile medical units launched in city

Aster Volunteers, a global CSR initiative of Aster DM Healthcare, has launched five new Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) in the city, expanding its global fleet to 76 units. The units deployed across Ranchi, Kanpur, Bhopal, Jaipur and Bhubaneswar will strengthen last-mile healthcare access for underserved communities. The initiative focuses on preventive care, screenings and early diagnosis. The units were flagged off by Azad Moopen, founder-chairman, Aster DM Healthcare, Alisha Moopen, deputy managing director, Abdul Nazer, trustee, Daya Rehabilitation Trust (Thanal) and Filsor Babu, regional head, Karnataka, Malabar Group & Malabar Charitable Trust. Speakers at the event highlighted the need to address gaps in access to primary healthcare, particularly for vulnerable populations such as slum residents, the elderly and the homeless. The mobile clinics are equipped to offer consultations, non-communicable disease screenings and referrals, and are expected to operate in coordination with local partners across cities.



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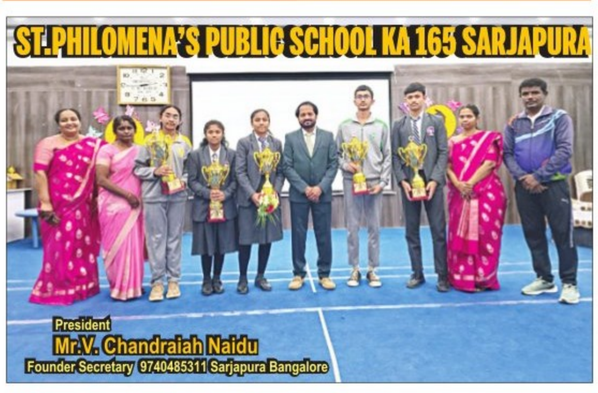

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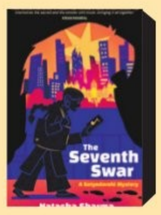
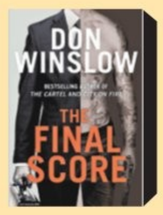


The Seventh Swar
by Natasha Sharma

What begins as a murder investigation spirals into a puzzle of music, history and buried truths stretching back to Ashoka's time. As Satyadarshi follows the clues, she finds herself caught in a conspiracy that feels uncomfortably close to home.

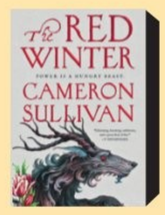
The Complex
by Karan Mahajan

In a powerful Delhi family built on political legacy, loyalty and ambition begin to pull in opposite directions. As secrets surface and the country shifts around them, the Chopras are forced to confront what their power has really cost them.



The Final Score
by Don Winslow

An impossible heist anchors a set of stories about crime, chance, and bad decisions. Each one closes in on the same question, how much can a single choice cost?



The Red Winter
by Cameron Sullivan

A legendary hunter returns to face the monster that nearly killed him once before. But as the land edges toward chaos, the real danger lies in everything the hunt stirs back to life.

FOLK FINDS FLOW

Artiste Krantinaari performs at Sound of Women, a celebration of women's expression and space in music by blending folk roots with hip-hop energy at NGMA, Palace Road | **KEVIN NASHON**

QUICKFIX

CHICKEN POT PIE

INGREDIENTS (For the filling)

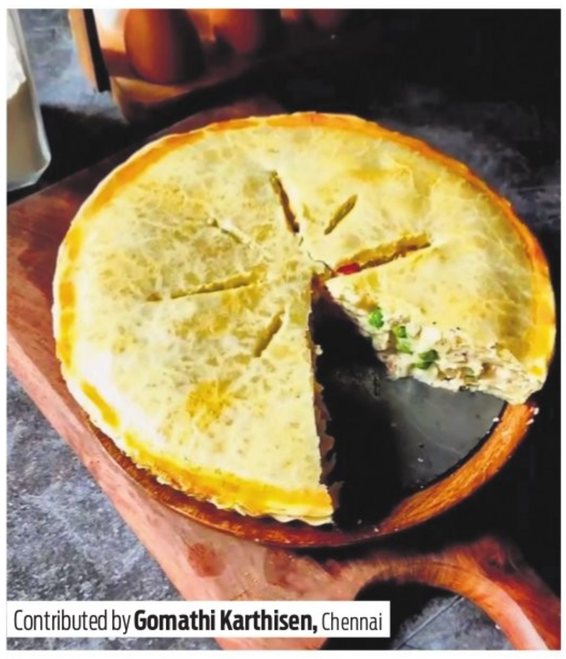
- **Cooked chicken:** 2 cups (shredded or diced)
- **Butter:** 3 tbsp
- **Onion, carrot, celery, mushrooms, peas**
- **All-purpose flour:** 3 tbsp
- **Milk:** 1 cup
- **Chicken broth:** 1 cup
- **Salt:** to taste
- **Pepper:** ½ tsp
- **Mixed herbs/thyme**: ½ tsp

For the crust:

- **All-purpose flour:** 2 cups
- **Cold butter:** 100 g (cubed)
- **Salt:** ½ tsp
- **Cold water:** 4-5 tbsp

METHOD

- In a bowl, mix flour and salt. Add cold butter and rub until crumbly.
- Add cold water gradually and form a dough. Wrap and chill for 30 minutes.
- Melt butter in a pan.
- Add onion, carrot, celery, and mushrooms. Sauté until soft.
- Add flour. Slowly pour in chicken broth and milk, stirring continuously.
- Cook until thick and creamy. Add chicken, peas, salt, pepper and herbs. Mix well.
- Roll out the dough in a baking dish and add the filling.
- Cover with another rolled dough sheet.
- Seal edges and cut small slits on top.
- Bake at 180°C (350°F) for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown.



Contributed by **Gomathi Karthisen,** Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Fitness Freak

Enter the week with this beginner-friendly session that blends cardio, strength training and basketball. If you are a working professional or student who wants a fun, effective way to stay fit, this could be your stop.

WHEN: April 20, 6.30am

WHERE: MN Krishna Rao Park Basketball court, Jayanagar

DETAILS: district.in

Crafty Canvas

Unleash your creativity with Paint Your Canvas, an event that offers a relaxing experience blending art, food and good vibes. Whether you are a beginner or just looking for a fun outing, the session will help you unwind.

WHEN: April 20, 11am

WHERE: Mixnosh: Art Cafe, Jayanagar

CALL: 99000 18115

Funny Bones

Enjoy a standup featuring Krishna Subramanian, Rahul Robin, Shirupa Sengupta and Shreekant Nagaraj. A bunch of actors who go unhinged on stage to make you laugh out of your distress! **WHEN:** April 20, 8.30pm **WHERE:** Glen's Bakehouse, Kalyan Nagar **CALL:** 90080 03473

Dance, Dance

Beat the Monday blues by dancing to the beats of **DJ Revibe**; expect wild energy, techno drops and a dancefloor that does not stop. Set the tone for your week on this night out.

WHEN: April 20, 8pm

WHERE: Yeda Republic, Koramangala

CALL: 98459 61722

Musical Mondays

Kickstart your Monday as you take a walk down memory lane with timeless Telugu melodies. With an hour of jamming and a request session, dive into the melodious vibe with your loved ones.

WHEN: April 20, 6pm onwards

WHERE: Silaa The Garden Cafe, HSR Layout

DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Yogic Recharge

Stretch it out, shake it off and flow from zen to zing at this workshop, which blends calming yoga with feel-good dance for the perfect mood boost. Breathe and groove your way to inner peace and joy.

WHEN: April 20, 7am

WHERE: NYDC Yoga Loft, Bilekahalli

CALL: 97312 64950

Jazz It Up

Celebrate International Jazz Day presented by The Bangalore School of Music in association with Alliance Francaise Bangalore and more. This year's edition will witness jam sessions and special interactive events. **WHEN:** April 24, 4pm onwards **WHERE:** Max Mueller Bhavan, Indiranagar **CALL:** 98442 45577

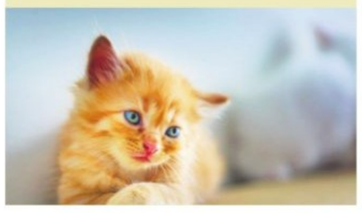
ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

My two-year-old female cat has a curved spine, neurological issues & anxiety. She recently lost her companion cat to an accident and has been calling for her nonstop. How can I help her cope with grief & prevent regression in her behaviour?

Your two-year-old cat is showing signs of grief, intensified by her existing spinal and neurological issues, which can increase anxiety and behavioural changes. To support her, maintain a calm, consistent home routine, offer extra attention, gentle petting, and play, and provide comfortable resting areas. Using cat pheromone diffusers (like Feliway) or interactive toys/puzzle feeders can help keep her mentally stimulated. Watch for loss of appetite, self-injury, or worsening neurological signs. If these persist, consult your veterinarian to assess anxiety, discuss short-term medication if needed, and manage her neurological health during this grieving period.



EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

THE LINK BETWEEN OMEGA-3 AND WORKOUT RECOVERY

If your training is intense but your recovery is slow, you're missing a key piece – inflammation management.

1. UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A WORKOUT:

- Every workout creates micro-tears in muscle fibres, triggering inflammation. This is necessary, but excessive inflammation delays recovery.
- Omega-3 fatty acids (EPA & DHA) help regulate this response, reducing unnecessary muscle damage and soreness.

2. REDUCE MUSCLE SORENESS AND SPEED UP RECOVERY:

- Omega-3 supplementation can significantly lower markers of muscle damage and delayed onset muscle soreness.
- If you experience soreness lasting 2-3 days, increasing omega-3 intake can help you recover faster between sessions.

3. CONTROL INFLAMMATION WITHOUT BLOCKING PROGRESS: Inflammation is needed for muscle growth but chronic inflammation slows it down. Omega-3 doesn't eliminate inflammation; it optimises and resolves it efficiently, supporting better adaptation and recovery.

4. SUPPORT MUSCLE GROWTH AND STRENGTH: Omega-3s may enhance muscle protein synthesis, help your body repair and build muscle more effectively over time. Pair omega-3 intake with adequate protein (1.6–2.2 g/kg) for optimal recovery and growth.

5. IMPROVE JOINT HEALTH AND MOBILITY: Frequent training stresses joints. Omega-3 helps reduce stiffness and improve joint lubrication. If you feel tightness in your knees, shoulders, or hips, omega-3 can support pain-free movement and longevity.

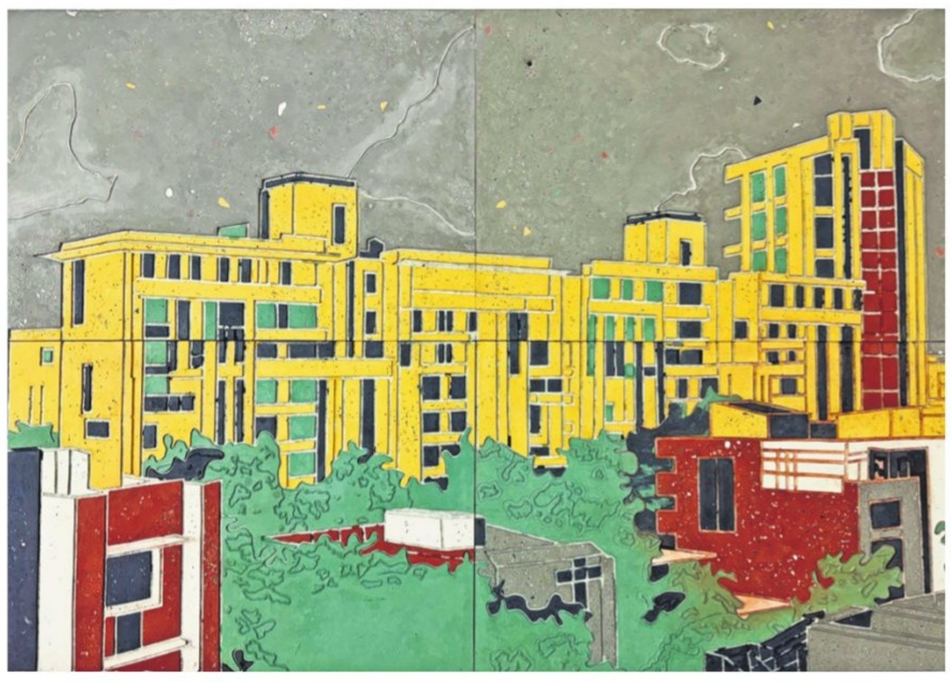
6. ENHANCE ENDURANCE AND OVERALL PERFORMANCE: Omega-3 supports cardiovascular health and oxygen delivery, key to stamina and sustained performance. Include omega-3-rich foods if you're doing endurance or high-volume training.

7. GET THE DOSAGE AND SOURCES RIGHT: Research suggests ~2g/day of EPA + DHA for at least 6 weeks shows the most noticeable recovery benefits. The best sources are fatty fish (salmon, sardines, mackerel), flaxseeds, chia seeds, walnuts (plant-based, lower conversion) and supplements (if dietary intake is low)

Recovery, and not just training, is where real progress happens. Paying attention to nutrition can make a visible difference in how your body responds. Including omega-3 as part of a balanced routine supports better recovery and long-term performance. Train hard, but recover smarter to sustain results over time.

By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult— a fitness and wellness platform

ARTCORNER



A CITY IN CONCRETE

Artist Kapil Jangid creates Gurugram's urban landscape, using oxide pigment and concrete

GUM MARO GUM!

To take on the heat, a traditional Indian remedy comes into play: badam pisin aka almond gum

Dried almond gum crystal

Soaked almond gum jelly

Nutrition Score

- Rich in iron, calcium, potassium, phosphorus, and magnesium
- High fibre content
- Low fat

Benefits

- Due to the high fibre content, it is highly filling and is great for weight loss
- Reduces cholesterol
- Strengthens and increases bone density
- Treats acne
- Antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory
- Promotes fertility, metabolism and gut health
- Strengthens immunity
- Delays premature ageing
- Alleviates seasonal ailments like cough and cold

When should one consume it?

If consumed early mornings on an empty stomach, it will soothe the digestive tract and maximise nutrient absorption as it is a great source of fibre.

Before meals, when consumed 30 minutes before lunch or dinner, the high fibre content of the badam pisin creates a feeling of 'fullness' which helps reduce binge-eating.

Consume before spicy meals to reduce acidity, heartburn and stomach burns.

On summer and hot afternoons, for rehydration and managing internal body heat.

CHANDANA M K

AS the summer sun blazes and the mercury rises in the city, the scorching heat not only sears your skin, but drains the body. This can cause dehydration, headaches, and gut-related issues. A traditional South Indian remedy has been used for ages to combat the heat – badam pisin.

Almond gum or gond katira is sourced from the secretions of a sweet almond tree (Prunus Dulcis). The gum (pisin) is a natural protective response to mechanical injuries incurred on the bark of the tree.

The gum, over time, hardens and heals the tree's wounds. It often takes weeks to harvest the gum, where the sticky liquid that oozes from the bark transforms into hardened, amber-coloured crystals. The shards are then cleaned and left to dry in the sunlight to remove any excess debris. On a hot day, this jelly-like gum is a natural coolant. For centuries, housewives and Ayurveda healers used to chew this to regulate body heat and prevent heatstroke.

Preparing it is a simple task. Take two to three pieces of almond gum and place them in a bowl filled with water. Leave it to soak overnight.

After 8-12 hours of rest, by a quiet miracle of physics, the hardened shards are replaced by a thick yet light translucent jelly. The overnight transformation is due to the network of complex sugars (polysaccharides), molecules that act like microscopic sponges absorbing water and swelling four times their dehydrated size. While the transformation may feel like 'magic', the benefits are infused in its nutritional profile.

Wellness coach Bijeesh Nair views gond katira as an essential functional food. "Rich in soluble fibre, it can support digestive health by improving bowel regularity, soothing the gut lining and acting as a mild prebiotic for the growth of beneficial gut bacteria," he explains. However, he suggests a balanced approach to its consumption. The almond gum can provide satiety and promote weight loss. Those suffering from constipation should ensure they include enough roughage to balance the soluble and insoluble fibre in their diet.

Most importantly, it should only be consumed after proper soaking and in moderate quantities. "Excessive intake can cause bloating and should never be taken dry due to the risk of choking," he cautions.

Gayathri V, a consultant dietitian, believes almond gum has similar properties to chia seeds. "However, it is much more beneficial for the gut. It is filled with antioxidants, great for detoxification of the gut lining, promotes skin and hair health, and is great for weight loss," she explains.

In many parts of India, badam pisin has been used for its medicinal and restorative properties to heal the womb after childbirth, says Dr Mumtaz Khalid Ismail, consultant clinical dietitian and nutritionist. "Due to its richness in magnesium and calcium, it helps repair bone density and strengthen the pelvic floor," she adds.

According to her, badam pisin can also aid the intense hormonal shifts during postpartum that can lead to internal heat and night sweats. "Since badam pisin is a natural coolant, it might help regulate the mother's body temperature without the use of harsh chemicals," she notes.

Once a super food in Indian traditional households, culinary traditions have introduced a variety of ways to indulge in this goodness.

Here, *CE* curates a few simple recipes to try at home, combining flavours that excite the taste buds and soothe the gut.

Classic Badam Pisin Milk

Ingredients

Bloomed badam pisin: 2-3 tbsp
Sabja seeds: 2-3 tbsp
Jaggery/sugar: 1-2 tsp
Chilled milk: 100 ml
Condensed milk: 2-3 tbsp

Method

Place the bloomed badam pisin at the bottom of the glass. Add the sabja seeds. Add jaggery or preferred sweetener. Add condensed milk. Pour chilled milk and mix well. Top with caramel syrup and dry fruits. And just like that, Badam Pisin Milk is set and ready to cool the body.

Badam Pisin Lemonade

Ingredients

Bloomed badam pisin: 2-3 tbsp
Lemon: 1/2
Sugar/salt: 1-2 tsp
Chilled water: 1 cup

Method: Place the bloomed badam pisin in a glass. Add sugar or salt, according to preference. Squeeze in half a lemon in the glass. Pour in 100 ml of water and mix well. Badam pisin lemonade is ready to drink.

Madurai Special Jigarthanda

Ingredients

Bloomed badam pisin: 2 tbsp
Nannari syrup (Sarsaparilla): 1 tbsp
Chilled reduced milk: 1 cup
Vanilla ice cream: 1 scoop
Chopped dry fruits: To garnish

Method

Place the bloomed badam pisin at the bottom of the glass. Add the nannari syrup and a splash of chilled milk. Pour in the thick caramel-flavoured reduced milk and mix well. Top the concoction with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Garnish with chopped nuts and fruits.

No-cook Badam Pisin Payasam

Ingredients

Bloomed badam pisin: 1 cup
Soaked dry fruits: 1 cup
Banana: 1
Coconut milk: 1 cup
Jaggery/sugar: 1-2 tsp
Cardamom powder: ½ tsp
Chopped dry fruits: To garnish

Method

Grind the soaked dried fruits into a fine powder. Add coconut milk into the bloomed badam pisin into a bowl. Pour in the dry fruit mixture into the same bowl. Add jaggery, cardamom powder and mix well. Top with crushed dry fruits and nuts. A sweet, healthy delicacy is served.

Badam Pisin Rose Milk Falooda

Ingredients

Bloomed badam pisin: 3 tbsp
Rose syrup: 1 tbsp
Chilled milk: 1 cup
Softened vermicelli: 2 tbsp
Sugar/honey: 2-3 tbsp
Strawberry ice cream: 1 scoop
Dried rose petals: 3-4 petals

Method

Add three tablespoons of bloomed badam pisin to a glass. Pour rose syrup and sugar/honey into the glass. Add two tablespoons of sabja or chia seeds. Add two tablespoons of softened vermicelli. Add milk. Top with a scoop of strawberry ice cream. Garnish with pomegranates, chopped nuts, fruits, and dried rose petals.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS** SMARTADS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHAGYA TYAGARAJA** aged 49 years W/o **Ashok Gopal Shet** resident of 74/1 4th Cross S.P Extension Malleswaram Bangalore-03, have changed my name to **BHAGYA ASHOK SHET** vide affidavit dated: 18/4/2026 Before Notary **A.R.Muneer Ahmed** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NARAYANAN VENKATARAMAN,** S/o. V A Narayana, residing at #264, Ward No.154, 5th Cross, Behind Karthik Nethralaya, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru 560050, have changed my name to **VENKATARAMANA NARAYANA** vide Affidavit Dated: 09/04/2026 sworn before Notary **B.V. NAGABHUSHANA,** Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRINIVASAN P S,** S/o Partha Sarathy .L, aged about 19 years, R/at No. 23, 4th Cross, Belltown Layout, Near Sunny Jinkithamanahalli, T.C. Palya, Bangalore North Post, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore-36, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SRINIVASAN PARTHSARTHY** and **SRINIVASAN P S** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SRINIVASAN P S** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18/04/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.R. PADMANABHAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sowjanya S,** D/o. Late S. Shivakumar, aged about 33 years, residing at EWS No. 27, 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross Road, Near Muneswara Temple, K.H.B 2nd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SOWJANYA S** to **JIVITA RADYA,** vide affidavit dated 10.04.2026, sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **CHIDAKSH BABU** S/o Harish Babu, Residing at, # 130/A, 7th Main, 6th Cross, Srinivasanagar, Bengaluru - 560050. Hereby solemnly declare that I have changed my name from **CHIDAKSH BABU HARISH BABU** to **CHIDAKSH BABU** vide affidavit dated.18.04.2026 sworn to before Notary, **Mohammed Hussain.K.**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEEPAK AVVERHALLI SHIVARAM**, age 62 years, DOB April 12 1964, son of Dr. A. D. Shivaramaiah, currently residing at 128, 7th Main, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bangalore-560011, declare that the names **DEEPAK AVVERHALLI SHIVARAM (ALIAS) DEEPAK A. SHIVARAM (ALIAS) AVVERHALLI SHIVARAM DEEPAK, (ALIAS) A.S. DEEPAK (ALIAS) DEEPAK A. S, (ALIAS) AVVERAHALLY SHIVARAMAIAH DEEPAK (ALIAS) AVVERHALLY SHIVARAMAIAH DEEPAK** all belong to me only, one and the same person. Henceforth and in the future I declare the corrected name as **DEEPAK AVVERHALLI SHIVARAM** and I shall be known and called as **DEEPAK AVVERHALLI SHIVARAM** for all purposes vide Affidavit dated 16th April 2026. Sworn before Advocate and Notary, Prasad Shetty K.B.Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ELIZABETH MAMATHA** W/o Shylesh Dsouza aged about 39 years, Residing at No.100, Pragathi Apartments G-01, Gayatri Nagar, H.B.C.S Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore North Bangalore-79. Declare that my name is **ELIZABETH MAMATHA DSOUZA** in all records of Aadhar Card, PAN Card My name in Educational SSLC Marks Card & Transfer Certificate is Mentioned as **ELIZABETH MAMATHA** After My Marriage the Surname has been attached to my name. Hence both name belongs to me only Vide Affidavit dated 17-04-2026, Sworn before Notary D.G Shanthappa, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **ELIZABETH MAMATHA DSOUZA** for all Purpose

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mohamed Aejaz Pasha,** residing at No.1380, New Masjid Mohalla, Magadi Town, Ramanagar. I further declare that I have changed my name from **Mohamed Ajaz Pasha** to **Mohamed Aejaz Pasha** vide Affidavit dated 09.04.2026, sworn before Notary Jayalingayya Mudenoormath, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **M. MUNIRAJUNAYDU,** S/o Muniswamy alias Muniswamy Naidu, aged about 68 years, Residing at No. 39, 20th Main, 6th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Road, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PARASHURAMA. M** to **M. MUNIRAJUNAYDU** henceforth I shall be known and called as **M. MUNIRAJUNAYDU** or all purposes, vide affidavit dated 17-04-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L VEENA** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANKURKUMAR BIPINCHANDRA BHAVSAR**, S/o Bipinchandra Ramanlal Bhavsar, R/o Flat No. 538, F Block Platinum Lifestyle Apartment, 80 Feet JP Nagar 8th Phase, Kothanur Dinne Bangalore-560083, have permanently changed my name from **ANKURKUMAR BIPINCHANDRA BHAVSAR** to **ANKURKUMAR BHAVSAR**, vide affidavit dated 16/04/2026, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Thyagaraj H,** S/o. Hanumareddy, age 61 years, 222 - 1st Cross, Near Chowdeshwari Temple Yemalur, Bangalore North Pin-560037, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **THYAGRAJU .H** to **THYAGARAJ.H,** vide affidavit dated 17.04.2026, sworn to before S.P. Gandhi, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Muddugangadhar Byrasandra Chennappa** S/o B C Chennappa, resident of Thirumala Nivasa, Thippenahalli Village And Post, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-562103. I have changed my minor daughter name from **SHREEYA MUDDUGANGADHAR** to **SHREEYA BYRASANDRA MUDDU GANGADHAR,** vide affidavit dt : 18-04-2026 before notary M S Satish, B.lore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ELIZABETH MAMATHA** W/o Shylesh Dsouza aged about 39 years, Residing at No.100, Pragathi Apartments G-01, Gayatri Nagar, H.B.C.S Layout, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore North Bangalore-79. Declare that my name is **ELIZABETH MAMATHA DSOUZA** in all records of Aadhar Card, PAN Card My name in Educational SSLC Marks Card & Transfer Certificate is Mentioned as **ELIZABETH MAMATHA** After My Marriage the Surname has been attached to my name. Hence both name belongs to me only Vide Affidavit dated 17-04-2026, Sworn before Notary D.G Shanthappa, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **ELIZABETH MAMATHA DSOUZA** for all Purpose

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SMT. LAKSHMI,** W/o Channigappa @ Channigaiah M C, D/o Thimmappa, aged about 64 years, R/at No.941, 3rd Cross, ITI Layout, 80 feet Road, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560072.
I hereby declare that earlier I was called as **GANGALAKSHMI, GANGALAKSHMAMMA, GANGAMMA,** and **LAKSHMI**, all the above names are belongs to me only in future my name called as **"LAKSHMI"** in respect of this I sworn vide affidavit dated 12/03/2026 and got notarized before the Notary Public Ravi at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **RAJENDRAN,** S/o Mohan, aged about 33 years, Residing at Madhettipalli Village, Kottamitta Post, Gudiyattam Taluk, Modikuppam, Kottamitta, Vellore, Tamilnadu-632601, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **RAJENDRAN** and **RAJENDRAN MOHAN** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAJENDRAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 18/04/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **MUNISWAMY .T** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHOBNATH,** S/o Ghasiram Kuril, R/o No. 16/12, Karakushala Nagar FCI and IOC Devaraja Mohalla, Metagalli, Mysuru Karnataka – 570016, have permanently changed my name from **SHOBNATH** to **SHOBH NATH,** vide affidavit dated 04/04/2026, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SUNIL SUBRAMANIAN (New Name), S/o. Subramanian A, residing at No.402, 3rd floor, Sixteen Square Apartment, 47th Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout, Near Srinivasa Theater, Bangalore South, Karnataka - 560078, India, that I have changed my name from SUNIL S (Old Name) to SUNIL SUBRAMANIAN (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as SUNIL SUBRAMANIAN (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 17/04/2026, before Notary H S DHARMA PRASAD, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AISHWARYA.B** D/o Basavaraj, aged about 19 years residing at Sonnapanahalli Village, Betta halasur Post, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban Dist - 562157, have changed my name from **AISHWARYA** to **AISHWARYA.B,** vide affidavit dated 16/4/2026 sworn to before T Narayanaswamy Advocate and Notary Govt of India, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **ACHAL ARORA,** aged about 43 years, S/o. D K Arora, residing at: Flat No.1023, Sobha Daisy Apartment, Green Glen Layout, Opp. Sobha Carnation, Bellandur Post, Bengaluru 560 103, **I have changed my son AARAV ARORA date of birth 03.04.2013 to 27-03-2013.** vide Affidavit dated 18.04.2026 before Notary P.Nanjunda, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **1. M. Raghavendra,** aged 43 years, **2. Chaithra .K,** aged 34 years, W/o M. Raghavendra, Both are residing at No. 18, Nanadanavanam B Street, Jogupalya, Halasuru, Hal 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560008, do hereby declare that we have changed my daughter's name from **VEDHANSHI .R** to **SAANVI NANDANA .R** henceforth we shall be known and called as **SAANVI NANDANA .R** or all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16/04/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **A.R. MUNEER AHMED** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. G D NAJUMUNISSA**, aged about 38 years, W/o. Mr. V N Ibrahim, residing at No. 28, 3rd Floor, Sri Ghatti, 7th Cross, Krishnappa Block, Near K M Provision Stories, Ganganagar, Bengaluru-560032, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **G D NAJMUNISSA** to **G D NAJUMUNISSA,** vide affidavit dated 17.04.2026, sworn to before K.V. Jagannath Reddy, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEVARAJ** S/o Late Anneyappa, Residing at, Muddenahalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562135 Hereby solemnly declare that I have changed my name from **DEVARAJA ANNEYAPPA** to **DEVARAJ** vide affidavit dated.18.04.2026 sworn to before Notary, **S P Gandhi**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **R NAGENDRA** AND **R CHANDRAKALA** Both are Residing at:-#No: 01, 1st MAIN, 3rd CROSS, CANARA BANK LAYOUT, NEAR WATER TANK, KODIGEHALLI, VIDYARAN YAPURA POST, BANGALORE NORTH, BANGALORE-560097, have changed our minor son's name from **MOKSHAGNA N** to **MOKSHAGNA SIMHA N,** vide affidavit dated 23/3/2026 sworn to before G R Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

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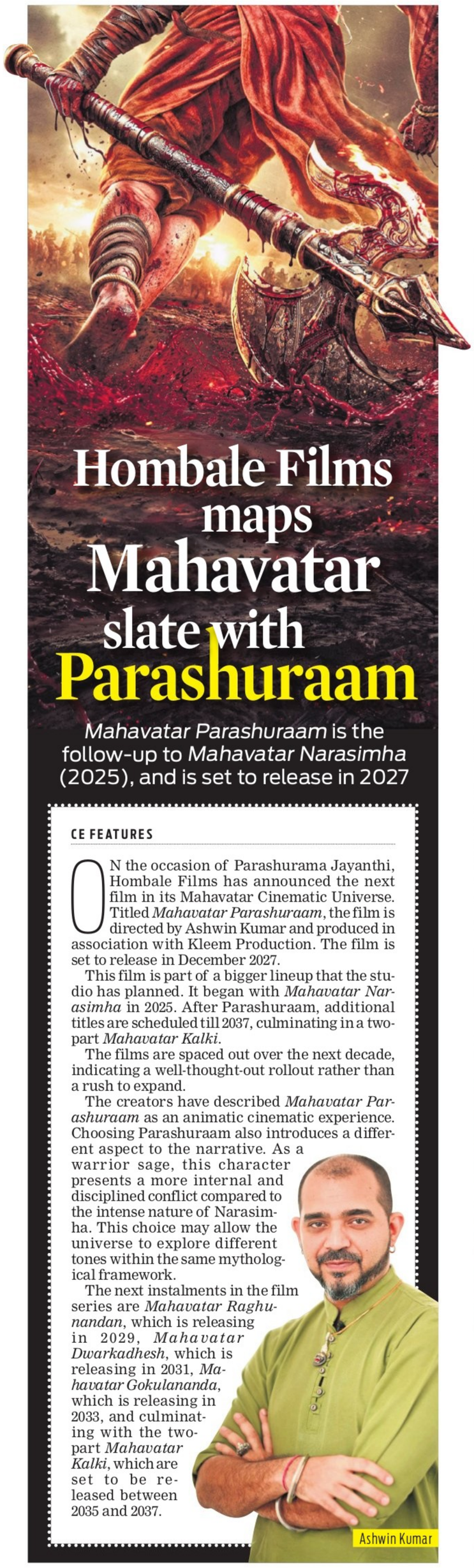


Hombale Films maps Mahavatar slate with Parashuraam

Mahavatar Parashuraam is the follow-up to *Mahavatar Narasimha* (2025), and is set to release in 2027

CE FEATURES

ON the occasion of Parashurama Jayanthi, Hombale Films has announced the next film in its Mahavatar Cinematic Universe. Titled *Mahavatar Parashuraam*, the film is directed by Ashwin Kumar and produced in association with Kleem Production. The film is set to release in December 2027.

This film is part of a bigger lineup that the studio has planned. It began with *Mahavatar Narasimha* in 2025. After Parashuraam, additional titles are scheduled till 2037, culminating in a two-part *Mahavatar Kalki*.

The films are spaced out over the next decade, indicating a well-thought-out rollout rather than a rush to expand.

The creators have described *Mahavatar Parashuraam* as an animatic cinematic experience. Choosing Parashuraam also introduces a different aspect to the narrative. As a warrior sage, this character presents a more internal and disciplined conflict compared to the intense nature of Narasimha. This choice may allow the universe to explore different tones within the same mythological framework.

The next instalments in the film series are *Mahavatar Raghunandan*, which is releasing in 2029, *Mahavatar Dwarkadhesh*, which is releasing in 2031, *Mahavatar Gokulananda*, which is releasing in 2033, and culminating with the two-part *Mahavatar Kalki*, which are set to be released between 2035 and 2037.

Ashwin Kumar

418 GAINS TRACTION WITH PRASHANTH NEEL'S INVOLVEMENT: KIRTAN NADAGOUDA

Prashanth Neel and Kirtan Nadagouda

A SHARADHAA

The first-time director has strong support, considering his horror film is presented by Prashanth Neel and backed by Mythri Movie Makers

NOTED production banner Mythri Movie Makers is undertaking an interesting challenge. Known for producing big commercial films, the studio is entering the horror genre for the first time with *418*, which is presented by Prashanth Neel. The project is already generating buzz and marks the directorial debut of Kirtan Nadagouda, who has worked as a second unit director and assistant director on the *KGF* series and *Salaar*. He views *418* as a natural step forward. "Prashanth sir liked the story a long time ago and asked me to develop it. I was busy with *KGF* and *Salaar*. Later, I returned to this idea, worked on it with him, and then pitched it to Mythri. They immediately connected with it," he says, and adds, "The attraction has caught on because of Prashanth Neel, whose guidance has been steady throughout."

Initially meant to be a Kannada film, *418* turned into a bilingual once the production company got involved. "They felt the story had a broader reach. With a genre like this, language isn't really an issue," says Kirtan about the film, which is billed as a Telugu-Kannada bilingual.

418 comes with a clear tagline: Enough of laughing in horror films. Now it's time to be scared. For Kirtan, choosing this genre feels both instinctive and strategic. "I didn't specifically set out to debut with horror, but it's an exciting genre for a newcomer. At the same time, it brings responsibility, especially with Prashanth Neel's name attached. People expect a certain level," he notes. "I'm very aware of that, and with his name, the bar is set high."

The film, named after a room number, takes place in a fictional medical college. Shot in Palakkad, Vizag, and Kundapur, over 70 percent of shooting is complete and the makers are approaching the final schedule, and plan to release *418* this year.

The cast features Surya Raj, Charan Lakkaraju, Preethi Pagadala, and Vaishnav. Dinesh Divakar, who previously worked in Photo handles the cinematography. Venky G, who has worked with Charan Raj will be making his debut with 318.

With a new director, a genre shift for Mythri Movie Makers, and a strong support coming from Prashanth Neel, *418* aims to create a horror experience focused on fear rather than familiarity. Signing off by addressing the genre shift from *KGF* and *Salaar* to *418*, Kirtan says, "After working on *KGF* and *Salaar*, many ask why I chose horror. But this is a unique story, and that's what caught everyone's attention."

Prashanth liked the story a long time ago and asked me to develop it. I was busy with KGF and Salaar, but afterward, I returned to this idea, worked on it with him, and then pitched it to Mythri. They immediately connected with it

- Kirtan Nadagouda, director

Prem Kumar to venture into new territory in Ramesh Begar's next

Ramesh Begar

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Prem Kumar moves into new territory with his upcoming project, a historical film directed by Ramesh Begar. Known for his work in romantic, feel-good films, Prem appears in a period setting for the first time in his career, indicating a shift in his choice of roles and screen image in Kannada cinema.

The film is based on a novel by Janagere Venkataramaiah and is backed by the team behind *Jalapata* (2023). While the earlier film focused on environmental concerns, this project carries a similar thread within a historical setting. The narrative is designed in a mass format and attempts to connect elements of the past with the present.

The first-look poster presents Prem in a different screen image. He is seen holding a sword and wearing a signet ring, with a steady and composed expression. His look includes long hair, a beard, and traditional elements such as the tripundra, aligning with the requirements of a historical character. The styling marks a departure from the urban roles he has been associated with so far.

Prem built his screen identity through films such as Nenapirali, *Jothe Jotheyali*, *Pallakki*, *Charminar*, and *Male*, creating a space within the feel-good genre. This film places him in a narrative that moves between historical and contemporary timelines. Ramesh Begar, whose work spans theatre, Yakshagana, television, and cinema, is writing and directing the film. Prem has completed shooting his portions, and the project is currently in post-production. Further details, including the title, are expected to be announced soon.

The Last of Us season 3 adds *Sinners* actor Li Jun Li to cast

CE FEATURES

HBO's *The Last of Us* is expanding its ensemble for the upcoming third season, with Li Jun Li joining the post-apocalyptic drama. The actor, who recently earned widespread praise for her performance in Ryan Coogler's Oscar-winning *Sinners*, will portray Mirium, a member of the Seraphites and the mother of siblings Lev and Yara.

The characters of Lev and Yara had already been announced, with Michelle Mao and Kyriana Kratter stepping into those roles. Season 3 will delve deeper into their storyline as part of a larger narrative shift.

The new season is set to adapt the latter half of the video game *The Last of Us* Part II, turning its focus toward Abby, played by Kaitlyn Dever. This marks a significant narrative transition following Season 2, which explored the strained dynamic between Joel and Ellie in an increasingly hostile world.

Set in a society that has collapsed two decades after a devastating outbreak, the series originally followed Joel (Pedro Pascal), a hardened survivor tasked with escorting a teenage girl, Ellie (Bella Ramsey), across a dangerous United States. What begins as a simple mission evolves into a deeply emotional and perilous journey, binding the two together in unexpected ways.

Behind the scenes, Craig Mazin continues as the sole showrunner for Season 3, after co-creating the series with Neil Druckmann, the creative force behind the original Naughty Dog game.

Salman Khan-Nayanthara film goes on floors

CE FEATURES

THE upcoming film of director Vamshi Paidipally, starring Salman Khan and Nayanthara, has begun production. The filmmaker wrote a post marking the commencement of this ambitious project, "Salman Khan-Vamshi Paidipally film... It all begins today."

Produced on a grand scale by Dil Raju under the Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, the film marks the first-ever collaboration between Salman Khan and National Award-winning director Vamshi Paidipally. The combination has already generated huge buzz, and the start of shooting has further heightened expectations. The team is currently filming on a specially constructed set in Mumbai, where key sequences will be filmed. Nayanthara has joined the cast for this major schedule.

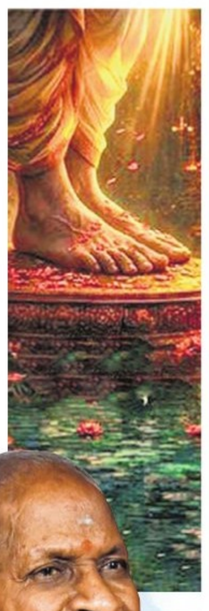
Ilaiyaraaja to compose for *Valmiki Ramayana*

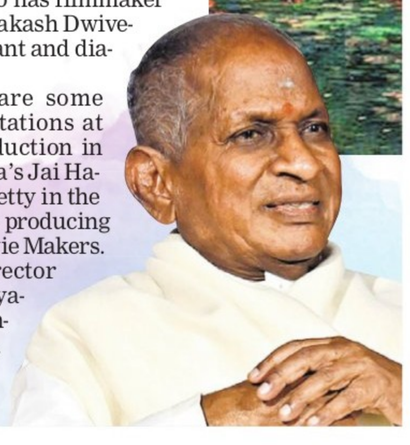
CE FEATURES

WE recently reported on the announcement of a film based on *Valmiki Ramayana*, directed by Bhavna Datta Talwar from Anand Neelakantan's screenplay. The latest development about the project is that composer Ilaiyaraaja has joined it. Earlier this Sunday, the film's makers dropped a poster mentioning "a musical invocation by Ilaiyaraaja."

The legendary composer joins the previously announced technicians of the film, including cinematographer Binod Pradhan, production designer Sabu Cyril, and sound designer Resul Pookutty. *Valmiki Ramayana* also has filmmaker and scholar Chandraprakash Dwivedi as a creative consultant and dialogue writer.

Meanwhile, there are some more Ramayana adaptations at various stages of production in India. Prashanth Varma's Jai Hanuman stars Rishab Shetty in the lead role. Rishab is also producing it alongside Mythri Movie Makers. On the other hand, director Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana adaptation stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash as Ravana, among others.





Kathryn Newton returns to the *MCU*

CE FEATURES

ON Friday, actor Kathryn Newton announced through social media that she is reprising her Cassie Lang role from 2023's *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* in the upcoming film *Avengers: Doomsday*. The film, directed by the Russo Brothers, is set to mark Newton's second appearance in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (*MCU*). Kathryn Newton announced her *MCU* comeback with a video.

Newton is not the first actor to portray Cassie Lang in the *MCU*. Earlier, Abby Ryder Fortson played a child version of the character in Ant-Man and Ant-Man and the Wasp, whereas Emma Fuhrmann portrayed her teenage version in *Avengers: Endgame*. *Avengers: Doomsday* will get a theatrical release on December 18.